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Volume 77, No. 217 ©SS 2019

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019

平成32年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

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## State of the art

Soldiers fire the newly developed Squad Designated Marksman Rifle on Jan. 25 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

GREGORY SANDERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army tests new rifle at Fort Bliss Page 7

## Trump warns allies: US will release ISIS fighters

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

**‘The Caliphate is ready to fall. The alternative is not a good one in that we will be forced to release them.’**

President Donald Trump

MUNICH — President Donald Trump threatened Sunday to release hundreds of Islamic State fighters being held in Syria if allies in Europe don't agree to take custody of the militants.

“The United States is asking Britain, France, Germany and other European allies to take back over 800 ISIS fighters that we captured in Syria and put them on trial,” Trump said in a late night tweet. “The Caliphate

■ Iran pressuring Europe to do more to save nuclear deal  
Page 2

is ready to fall. The alternative is not a good one in that we will be forced to release them.”

Trump, who intends to pull U.S. troops out of northern Syria, said the likely destination for the militants would be European countries. “The U.S. does not want to

watch as these ISIS fighters permeate Europe, which is where they are expected to go,” Trump said.

During the civil war in Syria, hundreds of militants flooded into the country, many coming from Europe to join ISIS' ranks. It's unclear how many of the militants Trump is referring to are actually European citizens.

Trump's comments come as global leaders wrap up three days of security talks in Munich, where the conflict in Syria was among the agenda items.

James Jeffrey, the U.S.' special representative on Syria issues, said in Munich that the U.S. will leave northeastern Syria, but the troop pullout will not be abrupt.

“It will be an orderly step-by-step withdrawal,” Jeffrey said without offering a timeline.

In December, Trump called for a complete withdrawal of U.S. forces in the country. On Saturday, Vice President Mike Pence reiterated that the U.S. still plans to wind down the mission in Syria.

SEE RELEASE ON PAGE 2

## MILITARY

# Iran pressures Europe to do more to preserve nuke deal

By DAVID RISING

Associated Press

MUNICH — Europeans need to do more than talk if they want to preserve a deal meant to keep Tehran from obtaining a nuclear weapon after the unilateral withdrawal of the United States, Iran's foreign minister said Sunday, slamming Washington as the "biggest source of destabilization" in the Middle East.

Mohammad Javad Zarif told a gathering of world leaders, top defense officials and diplomats that a barter-type system known as INSTEX set up last month by France, Germany and Britain to allow businesses to skirt direct financial transactions with Iran, and thereby evade possible U.S. sanctions, is not enough.

"Many around the world, particularly on this continent, speak eloquently about multilateralism, but they also need to walk the walk," Zarif told the Munich Security Conference in an impassioned address. "For instance, INSTEX falls short of the commitments by [European countries] to save the nuclear deal. Europe needs to be willing to get wet if it wants to swim against a dangerous tide of U.S. unilateralism."

The three European nations, as well as Russia, China and the European Union as a whole, have been struggling to save the 2015 deal with Iran since President Donald Trump announced the unilateral American withdrawal last year and reimposed sanctions.

The deal promises Iran relief from sanctions in exchange for limiting its nuclear program, and so far, the International Atomic Energy Agency has said Tehran has been living up to its obligations.

Those working to preserve the agreement have been trying to

**'Nothing can be done that is better than this deal.'**

**Mohammad Javad Zarif**  
Iranian foreign minister

subject to U.S. sanctions, such as medicine, medical supplies and agricultural goods, rather than on broader trade.

On Saturday, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence slammed INSTEX and urged others to abandon the nuclear deal entirely.

"The time has come for our European partners to stop undermining U.S. sanctions against this murderous revolutionary regime," Pence said before leaving Germany. "The time has come for our European partners to stand with us and with the Iranian people, our allies and friends in the region. The time has come for our European partners to withdraw

from the Iran nuclear deal."

Before Pence spoke, German Chancellor Angela Merkel defended the Iran deal, saying that while she shared concerns about Iran's missile program and regional ambitions, it was important to keep "the small anchor we have in order maybe to exert pressure in other areas."

Merkel's comments and her defense of global diplomacy instead of go-it-alone foreign policy drew lengthy applause.

Zarif told the conference that Pence had "arrogantly demanded that Europe must join the United States in undermining its own security and breaking its obligations" and urged them to push back against American pressure.

"If the United States were to come, in the course of their fight with China, and tell Europe to stop dealing with China, what would you do?" he asked. "Whatever you (would) want to do then, do now in order to prevent that eventualty."

He would not comment on whether the nuclear deal will survive without the U.S. but said Iran was not prepared to renegotiate it as Trump has suggested.

"Nothing can be done that is better than this deal," he said. "It's not all we want, and it's certainly not all the United States wants, but it's the best that can be achieved."

Responding to Pence's comments that Iran was the "greatest threat to peace in the Middle East," Zarif said the U.S. has an



KERSTIN JOENSSON/AP

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif speaks during the Munich Security Conference on Sunday.

## Release: Trump says it's time for other countries to pick up slack

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Still, the U.S. said it intends to keep its coalition together and wants allies to play a larger role in the broader campaign to root out ISIS elements.

Jeffrey said there are hundreds of ISIS cells scattered throughout the region. U.S. air power will remain ready to respond when needed, he said.

Trump has essentially declared victory over the group, which has been forced out of all its former strongholds in

Iraq and Syria. But there remain concerns that ISIS could regroup if the U.S. pulls out. Trump said the time has come for other countries to pick up the slack.

"We do so much, and spend so much — Time for others to step up and do the job that they are so capable of doing. We are pulling back after 100% Caliphate victory!" Trump tweeted.

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"unhealthy fixation" with Iran and is itself the "single biggest source of destabilization in our neighborhood."

"The U.S. claims — and, unfortunately, some blindly parrot — that it is Iran which is interfering in the region, but has it ever been

asked whose region?" Zarif said.

"Just glimpse at a map for a second — the U.S. military has traveled 10,000 kilometers to dot all our borders with its bases. There is a joke that it is Iran's fault that it put itself in the middle of all the U.S. bases."

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## PACIFIC

# 4th USS Reagan soldier pleads guilty in drug case

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
*Stars and Stripes*

**YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan** — A fourth USS Ronald Reagan sailor on Thursday pleaded guilty to charges related to a drug operation that involved 15 7th Fleet sailors.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Sean Gevero, a nuclear electrician's mate, was found guilty of wrongful use or possession of controlled substances after admitting to possessing LSD with intent to distribute in August 2017 and illegally possessing steroids on Feb. 9, 2018, according to a pretrial agreement.

A military judge sentenced Gevero to 90 days in confinement, followed by a bad conduct discharge, according to Naval Forces Japan spokesman Marshall Smith. His rank was also reduced to E-1. Gevero's is the latest in a string of courts-martial related to the case. On Jan. 14, Petty Officer 3rd Class Philip Colegrove, also a nuclear electrician's mate, was sentenced to 10 months in jail, a bad conduct discharge and reduction in rank to E-1 after pleading guilty to selling drugs from the Ronald Reagan.

Colegrove admitted he sold LSD and methylenedioxymethamphetamine — also known as MDMA

or ecstasy — onboard the Ronald Reagan several times from January 2017 to February 2018.

He also pleaded guilty to bringing LSD "onto a vessel used by the armed forces" with intent to distribute, according to his pretrial agreement.

In December, Petty Officer 2nd Class Ethan D. Strandberg and Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew W. Miller, both nuclear machinist mates, were reduced in rank to E-1 and discharged from the Navy for bad conduct in exchange for pleading guilty to drug distribution charges.

Strandberg admitted to conspiring to distribute MDMA onboard

the aircraft carrier between January 2017 and February 2018. Miller admitted to distributing LSD near Yokosuka during the same period.

Strandberg was sentenced to 60 days and Miller received 30 days in confinement.

A fifth, unnamed defendant in the case is awaiting an Article 32 preliminary hearing, Smith said. Article 32 hearings, the military equivalent of a grand jury, are used to determine if there is enough evidence to justify a trial.

As part of their pretrial agreements, Gevero, Colegrove, Strandberg and Miller agreed to testify against others involved in the case

if called upon.

Ten other Reagan sailors received nonjudicial punishments in connection with the case, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Kelley said in November.

Further information about those disciplinary actions was not publicly released, per Navy policy on administrative issues.

Fourteen of the 15 implicated sailors were assigned to the Ronald Reagan's nuclear reactor department, Kelley said in June. Those suspected of involvement were removed from those duties as the investigation got underway.

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## US, Japanese forces stage mock battle

By JAMES BOLINGER  
*Stars and Stripes*

**TAKASHIMA, Japan** — Reserve infantry Marines and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers fought side by side during a three-day mock battle at the Aibano Exercise Area near Takashima earlier this month as the capstone for Exercise Forest Light 19-2.

A company of riflemen from the Marine Corps 2nd Battalion, 23rd Regiment, who are on their first deployment since 2009 in Iraq, joined two companies of Japanese soldiers from 7th Regiment for a week of training before fighting a simulated battle that concluded Thursday.

The annual Forest Light exercise brings together Marine Corps units with those from the Japan Self-Defense Forces for some training and tightening of their military relationship. This year, it was also an opportunity for more intensive training than reservists normally experience.

"This allows our company to train for common goals," said Capt. Ayronn Foy, the G Company commander. "It's something that we don't have time for during regular reserve duty. Since we are working with another infantry company, the training goals are the same. We practice patrolling, tactics, etc."

The week of training before the pitched battle included a multitude of infantry missions such as obstacle clearance, first aid, close-quarters combat and urban warfare.

This is the second international exercise for the Marines of 2/23 since they deployed to Okinawa in October. The first was Forest Light 19-1 in December.

The experience of deploying as a whole battalion can't be replicated any other way, said Lt. Col. David Ortiz, the battalion commander. Most of the battalion operations stateside happen at a company level, and the companies that form 2/23 attend drill weekends in three different states: California, Utah and Arizona.

Reserve Marines train for one weekend a month and participate in a two-week annual training when they are not deployed. A Marine infantry battalion consists of a headquarters company, three rifle companies and a weapons company — usually more than 400 Marines.

The goal of Forest Light is to build a stronger relationship with the Japanese military and increase the ability for the two countries to practice actions at the bat-



JAMES BOLINGER/Stars and Stripes

**Marine snipers from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Regiment, sharpen their skills alongside snipers from Japan's 7th Regiment, Middle Army, on Feb. 6 during Exercise Forest Light 19-2 at the Aibano Exercise Area near Takashima, Japan.**



CHRISTIAN LOPEZ/Stars and Stripes



JAMES BOLINGER/Stars and Stripes

**Left: Reserve Marines prepare to take a building during the training. Right: A Marine infantry officer explains Marine methods of urban warfare to Japan Self-Defense Force soldiers.**

talion and company levels, Ortiz said.

Forest Light 19-2 was conducted alongside Iron Fist 19, a separate bilateral exercise between the 1st Marine Division and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force soldiers at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., that wrapped up Feb. 8.

The best part of the exercise in Japan has been interacting with the Japanese, Ortiz said. The Marines get to understand and see a new culture.

Japanese soldiers also do some things differently, and it's good for the Marines to understand that there are different ways to

accomplish a mission.

The Marines of 2/23 are scheduled to return stateside in April and will be replaced by Reserve Marines from 1st Battalion, 25th Infantry Regiment.

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## PACIFIC

# Welcome to the jungle

## Operation Cobra Gold teaches survival skills to troops training in Thailand

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II  
Stars and Stripes

U.S. soldiers drank blood from cobras and water from the trunks of banana trees, survival skills their hosts taught them last week during the Cobra Gold exercise in Thailand this year.

Participants in the annual multinational exercise, one of the largest and longest-running in the world, consider its survival training a highlight of the event. Soldiers of the U.S. Army 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, and Royal Thai Armed Forces took part in training Wednesday at Phitsanulok, Thailand.

Thai instructors shared with the Americans their knowledge of food and water sources in the jungle. Drinking the still-warm blood of the namesake reptile is more than a show of bravado; it's a life-sustaining measure.

"They taught us a lot, and it's something you put in the back of your head just in case something ever happened to you," U.S. Army Spc. Louis Smith said in a video interview released Wednesday by the U.S. military after the sur-

vival training. "You learned what you can eat and what you can find."

It's no surprise that cobra blood tastes like blood, Smith said in the video, "but it gives you that special little warm feeling."

Thai instructors also taught the Americans how to find water at the base of a banana tree, which insects are good to eat and how insects can also lead someone to water.

"I didn't know that ants are a trace of water. Wherever they are [going], they know the location of water," said Smith, of Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment. "That is something I would take back home and teach other people."

The 38th annual, 11-day exercise, officially known as Cobra Gold 19, concludes Friday. The exercise brings together 27 other nations, including Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore. China and India take part in civic action parts of the exercise.

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U.S. Army Pfc. Kyle Ridge, a combat medic with Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, samples insects during survival training last week.



U.S. Army Spc. James S. Teaney, with Bravo Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, holds a snake during exercise Cobra Gold 19.



PHOTOS BY ROBERT G. GAVALDON/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Royal Thai Armed Forces Master Sgt. 1st Class Saengchai Seuthai pours cobra blood into the mouth of a U.S. soldier of the 20th Infantry Regiment during exercise Cobra Gold 19 at Phitsanulok, Thailand.



A scorpion sits on the arm of a Royal Thai Armed Forces soldier.



## MILITARY

# Work begins on new Wiesbaden elementary school

By **AARON KNOWLES**  
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The Army has begun construction on a new \$58.9 million elementary school at Hainerberg Kaserne in Wiesbaden.

The facility, expected to be complete in 2021, will include several energy conservation efforts, low-flow plumbing to reduce water use and sustainable elements to cut construction costs, officials said Thursday at a groundbreaking ceremony.

"I think everyone one of us here recognizes the premier importance of our children," Army garrison commander Col. Noah Cloud, said during Thursday's ceremony. "This facility and this

groundbreaking represent what I think is a great opportunity to enhance those opportunities and experiences for our children."

This will be one of four schools in a new complex that will improve the Wiesbaden community, he said. The full complex is scheduled to be completed in 2022.

Wolfgang Schnitzer, an architect with Landesbetrieb Bau und Immobilien Hessen and part of the construction team working on the school, said this was the third major construction project for the Hainerberg school complex.

Following the ceremony, students from Wiesbaden Elementary School buried a time capsule in the foundation of the new school. The capsule included photos of the student body, a piece of brick



AARON KNOWLES/Stars and Stripes

With the help of construction workers, students from the Wiesbaden Elementary School bury a time capsule in the foundation of the new school Thursday.

from the school and clothing representing their school spirit.

"What we want for you is better than what we had for ourselves

and that goes for education also," Col. John Baker, of the Europe District Army Corps of Engineers said. "We hope that this building

that we provide for you gives you those opportunities."

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## VFW awards 'Democracy' scholarship to student in Germany

By **AARON KNOWLES**  
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Though he's never lived in the United States or voted in an election, Eoin Oravetz earned more than \$1,000 in scholarships and a trip to Washington from the Veterans of Foreign Wars at Hainerberg Kaserne for his essay on "why my vote matters."

David Morgan, European district commander for the VFW, presented the "Voice of Democracy" certificates and scholarship to Oravetz, 17, a senior at Wiesbaden High School, during a pep rally at the school Thursday. His audio-recorded essay was chosen from more than 50 from student writers across Europe who competed in the VFW's Voice of Democracy essay program.

"Eoin had a lot of compassion



AARON KNOWLES/Stars and Stripes

David Morgan, left, the European district commander for the VFW, awards Eoin Oravetz a scholarship Thursday.

and it was obvious that he put in a lot of work and effort and did a lot of research for his essay," Morgan said.

gan said.

"Because of Oravetz's parents' military service and current contracting jobs, he has lived his whole life overseas."

The approaching opportunity to vote is a monumental event, he said.

"It is such an important topic for us living overseas," Oravetz said. "I just poured in what I felt about what voting means to me. Voting is the ability to have an actual say in what your nation does and, even living overseas, it is essential to democracy."

The VFW's mission is to create better citizens and in turn, better leaders for future generations, Morgan said. The essay competition has been around for more than 70 years, and though its topic changes annually, it's always patriotic, he said.

"The intent demonstrates how

to honor and show compassion to our fellow man and country," Morgan said.

Created in 1947, the essay contest draws entries from about 40,000 American high school students from the U.S. and its territories annually, the VFW's website says. The first-place winner at the VFW department or state level wins at least \$1,000 and an expenses-paid trip to compete at the national level.

Oravetz will travel with Morgan to Washington in March to compete for the top prize of \$30,000 in scholarship money. Other national scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$16,000.

Last year's European district winner, Sean Hogan from Ramstein, Germany, won the \$1,000 Ray Sisk Memorial Scholarship at the annual event.

The winners from each state

will have their recorded essays posted on the VFW's website at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org).

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## WWII dog tags found in Germany to be returned to family

By **ERIN HEFFERNAN**  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

ST. LOUIS — It was a foggy day around Christmastime when a Dutch father and son made a discovery in a German forest that connected them to a World War II soldier and a St. Louis family some 4,500 miles away.

Marton Van Muijlekom, a construction worker from the Southern Netherlands, and his son, Noel, 13, were in the Hurtgen Forest with a few other family members on one of their regular hunts for artifacts.

The group scanned the forest floor with metal detectors hoping they would find something left behind during a 1944 WWII battle that raged for months in the thickly wooded

forest on the western edge of Germany at its border with Belgium.

Soon they got a clear signal and dug about half a foot underground to find it: a silver dog tag.

The name on the tag was still clearly visible: Joseph M. Jodicke.

Once his time stationed in Germany ended, Joseph Jodicke focused on building a life back home — he married, and he and his wife, Genevieve, lived above the family's Benton Park tinning business, Benton Sheet Metal.

Jodicke died in February 1995 at 70. He was one of four generations of the family in the military — his father was in WWI, his son served in Vietnam and his grandson Jim was in the Army reserves.

Last week the family got the unexpected reminder of his service.

Through a little online research from his home in the Netherlands, Van Muijlekom was able to match up the name and ID number on the tag to the American soldier buried at Jefferson Barracks Cemetery in St. Louis County.

Once the family was found, Van Muijlekom put the tag in the mail.

Jason Jodicke plans to display the tag along with his grandfather's bayonet and an ammo box from the war.

"I'm still blown away," he said. "You never forget about somebody you love, but you don't think about them every day, and then out of the blue you get a reminder like this. I can't even find the words."

## WAR ON TERRORISM

# ISIS holds 1,000 civilians hostage in eastern Syria

By SARAH EL DEEB  
Associated Press

AL-OMAR OIL FIELD BASE, Syria — Islamic State militants are preventing more than 1,000 civilians from leaving a tiny area still held by the extremist group in a village in eastern Syria, a spokesman for the U.S.-backed Syrian militia fighting the group said Sunday.

Regrettably, Daesh have closed all the roads," Mustafa Ball, a spokesman for the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, told The Associated Press, referring to ISIS by its Arabic acronym.

SDF officials have said the extremists are hiding among civilians in a tented village and using a network of caves and tunnels. ISIS, which once ruled a proto-state in large parts of Syria and Iraq, is clinging to an area less than a square mile in the village of Baghouz, in eastern Syria.

The extremists may include high-level commanders and could be holding hostages among those trapped inside.

Occasional coalition airstrikes and clashes continue inside the village of Baghouz. Artillery rounds were meant to clear land mines for the SDF fighters to advance. SDF commanders say the end of ISIS' self-declared caliphate is near.

**‘Regrettably, Daesh have closed all the roads.’**

**Mustafa Ball**  
spokesman for Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces

"We will very soon bring good news to the whole world," Ciya Furat, an SDF commander, said Saturday at a news conference at al-Omar Oil Field Base, miles away from Baghouz in the Deir el-Zour province.

The capture of the last pocket of territory held by ISIS in either Syria or Iraq would mark the end of a devastating four-year global campaign to end the extremist group's so-called caliphate. At the height of their power in 2014, the extremists controlled nearly a third of both countries.

But experts and U.S. defense officials warn that the group still poses a major threat and could regroup within six months if pressure is not kept up.

Thousands of ISIS fighters and their families have emerged from the last bastion held by the group in the past few months. The SDF is holding around 1,000 foreign fighters in lockups and camps in northern Syria, and their fate is



PHOTOS BY FELIPE DANA/AP

**U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces fighters sit outside a building as the fight against Islamic State militants continues in the village of Baghouz, Syria, on Saturday.**

a major concern, particularly as American troops prepare to withdraw from Syria.

The Kurds want their countries to take them back, and the U.S. has called on Europeans to repatriate and put them on trial.

President Donald Trump repeated that call in a tweet Saturday. "The United States is asking Britain, France, Germany and other European allies to take back over 800 ISIS fighters that we captured in Syria and put them on trial. The Caliphate is ready to fall," Trump posted.

He suggested the alternative would be that the U.S. would be forced to release them.

"We do so much, and spend so much — Time for others to step up and do the job that they are so capable of doing. We are pulling back after 100% Caliphate victory!" he added.



**A U.S.-backed SDF fighter rides past destroyed homes and vehicles in a village recently retaken from Islamic State militants in Susah, Syria, on Saturday.**

## Study: Millennial jihadis educated, not outcasts

By AYA BATRAWY  
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A study by a Saudi research center is challenging the notion that jihadi fighters are necessarily disenfranchised and lacking opportunity, with its lead researcher saying Feb. 7, that a new generation of Saudi militants are relatively well-educated, not driven purely by religious ideology and show little interest in suicide missions.

The 40-page study published by the King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies looked at 759 Saudi recruits who joined Islamic State mostly between 2013 and 2014. That's roughly a third of the overall number of Saudis who fought in Syria. The data was drawn from leaked ISIS entry documents.

The Saudi Interior Ministry previously said that 2,500 Saudis had gone to Syria in the years before the kingdom criminalized fighting abroad in early 2014. Only Tunisia sent more foreign fighters. Subsequently, the king-

dom was the target of numerous ISIS attacks that killed dozens of people, as well as in Kuwait.

Researcher Abdullah bin Khaled Al-Saud said the fighters were neither loners nor social outcasts but appear to have been motivated by the heightened sectarianism that began to color the 2011 Syrian revolution as it slid into armed conflict.

A turning point came when the Iran-backed Shiite Hezbollah group decisively committed to fight the conflict in May 2013 to defend the Syrian government against the mostly Sunni Muslim resistance.

"That actually was the point when the first wave of Saudis traveling to Syria started to happen," Al-Saud told The Associated Press. "So, I think instability, war and violence certainly plays a major role when it comes to the specific Saudi context."

In contrast, issues of disenfranchisement, poverty and criminal pasts factored heavily in ISIS fighters hailing from European countries like France, Belgium and the U.K., to name a few.

An AP analysis of some 3,000 leaked ISIS documents had found that most of the recruits hailing from a range of nationalities, or around 70 percent, came with only the most basic knowledge of Islam — the lowest possible choices on the forms. That created fertile ground for the indoctrination of recruits in line with the group's extremist interpretation of Islam.

The Saudi study released Feb. 7, however, found that among Saudi recruits a little more than half said they had basic knowledge of Islam. Much of the rest claimed to have intermediate and advanced religious knowledge.

That was somewhat expected given that all Saudi students are given religious education in schools, according to the study.

"Still, the Saudi contingent's religious fluency should not be exaggerated: 58 percent of Saudi (fighters) acknowledged that they had only basic knowledge of the religion of Islam, and only eight percent claimed to be 'knowledge seekers,'" the report stated.

Unlike fighters from Europe, where many were high school dropouts or unemployed, the Saudi recruits were relatively well-educated. Close to 340 had a high school-level education, around 60 had a diploma of some kind, close to 120 had university degrees and five held postgraduate degrees.

"This data demonstrates that the Saudi contingent does not consist of educational under-achievers, which can lead to the argument that they were not lacking in socio-economic opportunities," the study said.

The report notes, though, that "education does not necessarily equate with job opportunities, and a sense of relative deprivation may still be relevant" with 15 percent of the Saudi contingent in this study stating they were unemployed.

Additionally, the overwhelming majority of these recruits, or 625, volunteered to be fighters. Just nine percent, or 71, signed up to be suicide bombers.

## Roadside bomb kills 3 civilians in Afghanistan

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan official said a roadside bomb killed three civilians in the southern Kandahar province.

Gen. Tadeen Khan, the provincial police chief, said a small child was among those killed in Sunday's blast, which he blamed on the Taliban.

The insurgents routinely plant explosives targeting Afghan security forces, but the bombs often end up killing or maiming civilians.

In the northern Balkh province, the Taliban stormed a police checkpoint late Saturday, killing six police. Adel Shah Adel, spokesman for the provincial police chief, said the insurgents targeted a force charged with guarding a gas pipeline. The Taliban claimed the attack.



MILITARY

NEW ARMY RIFLE

Soldiers at Fort Bliss, Texas, completed testing this month of the Army's new Squad Designated Marksman Rifle, or SDM-R. A rifleman in each squad will carry the weapon so one soldier in the unit will be able to fight in close combat but also have long-range firing capability. The graphic below shows how the new rifle sizes up with other Army rifles



M-4



M-16A4



M-110



SDM-R

Weight	7 pounds	8 pounds	16 pounds	10 pounds
Length	33 inches	39.5 inches	46 inches	36 inches
Range	effective range 500 meters	effective range 550 meters	effective range 800 meters	effective range 800 meters
Caliber	5.56 mm x 45 mm	5.56 mm x 45 mm	7.62 mm x 51 mm	7.62 mm x 51 mm
Firing mode	semi-automatic, burst	semi-automatic, burst	semi-automatic	semi-automatic
Standard magazine capacity	30 rounds	30 rounds	10 or 20 rounds	10 or 20 rounds

SOURCE: U.S. Army

PHOTOS: U.S. Army

By **SCHELLING** Stars and Stripes

New Army rifle offers more versatility in combat

By **ROSE L. THAYER**  
Stars and Stripes

Army Sgt. James Snow has carried an M-4 carbine and an M-110 sniper rifle as an infantryman on missions. With the M-4, he knew he was capable of hitting a target accurately up to only 300 meters. With a sniper rifle, he had less maneuverability and spent a lot of time breaking down and reassembling the larger weapon to carry.

Last month, Snow was given the opportunity to try out the Army's new Squad Designated Marksman Rifle, or SDM-R. After just a couple days handling the new weapon, he said it felt like something that could fill the needs of both his previous weapons. It had more mobility and close combat capabilities like the M-4, but also better precision at a distance like the M-110.

"It's easy to move around, and you can do a lot of things with it," Snow said. "Absolutely, I would carry this around every day if I was deployed. Every day, you could carry it for every single situation."

That was exactly the type of weapon that the Army looked to create for its combat arms squads — a weapon for one member of an infantry, armor, cavalry scout or combat engineer squad to carry and provide precision fire between 300 and 600 meters without losing the capability of hitting closer-range targets.

The need for such a rifle was identified in the 2015 Small Arms Capabilities-Based Assessment that stated "squads must have an organic, precision-fire capability to engage select personnel targets from zero to 600 meters."

With two weeks of testing completed this

month at Fort Bliss, Texas, the Army is in the final stages of deciding what ammunition and accessories to field with the rifle. It will then purchase 6,612 for fielding with infantry, armor, cavalry scout and combat engineer units, said Capt. Sean McIntosh, assistant program manager of individual weapons, under Program Executive Office Soldier, which guides the development of new Army equipment.

"The challenge that we face is trying to provide as much capability as possible through one rifle system," said McIntosh, who began assisting in management of the new rifle project in September 2017.

The new rifle doesn't replace any one weapon within the Army but offers another capability to a squad. The designated rifleman, or marksman, within each nine-person squad now carries an M-16, or the enhanced battle rifle. That soldier's weapon will soon be replaced with the new Heckler and Koch-made SDM-R. It weighs about 12 pounds with accessories, is 36 inches long and is based on the company's compact semi-automatic sniper system.

To compare, an M-16 is lighter at about 8 pounds and 39.5 inches long. An M-110 sniper rifle is about 16 pounds and 46 inches, which is about 7 pounds and 33 inches in length.

McIntosh's team also wanted to ensure the new rifle was something soldiers would want to carry.

"This system was completely built off what soldiers wanted. All the components on this rifle were hand-picked by soldiers," said McIntosh, referencing feedback collected from soldiers about what they wanted

in a new rifle. "We're trying to do our due diligence to get these guys everything they're asking for."

Some of the soldier-chosen accessories include a Sig Sauer optic with a one-to-six variable for aiming the weapon at various distances, and Geissele brand rail and trigger systems.

Sgt. 1st Class Robert Shoup, assistant team chief for the instructor training group of the Army Marksmanship Unit at Fort Benning, Ga., traveled to Fort Bliss for the testing and will help prepare training manuals on the new rifle. He agrees it has strong potential to fill its multipurpose role for squads.

Squads, three of which make up a platoon, are typically divided into two teams. Within those teams, there is a soldier with a grenade launcher, another with a machine gun and a third who serves as the rifleman.

"The role of the [squad's designated marksman] is to be an integral part of the squad, to move and fight with them, but he's there to help them cover that gap between the rifleman and the sniper and to really provide that precision fire if they need it from that 300- to 600-meter range," Shoup said.

As soldiers add those longer-range distances into operation, a solid foundation in the fundamentals is important, such as stance, breathing and environment, so there will be some new element of training required to transition soldiers trained on an M-4 to the new weapon. The M-4 is most effective with precision fire up to 300 meters.

"That's a big challenge for this week," Shoup said. "We work on fundamentals and extending and pushing out to those distances

so that the guys get a chance to see that everything they do matters."

"A lot of them don't have experience shooting past 300 meters because that's what the Army goes out to."

For Sgt. Marc Rittikaidachar, a cavalry scout and squad leader in Fort Bliss' 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, shooting the new rifle was the first time he'd fired at a target beyond 500 meters, with the exception of using a machine gun. After a couple of days with the SDM-R, he felt confident aiming out 700 and 800 meters.

Even so, Rittikaidachar said, "If I had to clear a compound, I'm not handicapping the ability of [the marksman] I assign to carry that weapon system. If I need him to help clear the compound, he's still able to engage targets up close."

Following their time with soldiers at Fort Bliss, McIntosh said, his team will take the collected data back and PEO Soldier will finalize decisions on ammunition and make any needed changes to the equipment fielded with the rifle before placing orders "very shortly."

The entire process of selecting and fielding the rifle has taken about 10 months, significantly less time than the projected two years for a small arms project like this, McIntosh said. Part of that speed is credited to the fact that the rifle was originally under consideration as a new sniper rifle. When it wasn't selected, he said, officials saw the opportunity for its use with combat arms squads.

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## NATION

## Shanahan: No amount determined for wall

By BOB BURNS  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The acting secretary of defense said Saturday he has not yet determined how much money he will redirect to President Donald Trump's border wall project.

Pat Shanahan, who has been leading the Pentagon since Jim Mattis stepped down Dec. 31, made the comment in an interview with reporters flying with him from Germany to Washington.

Shanahan said he has a great deal of discretion in deciding how to use the authorities granted to him by Trump's declaration Friday of a national emergency.

The former Boeing executive said he would be working out details starting Sunday, emphasizing that his mission is to support the border security needs of the Department of Homeland Security.

The White House said before Trump's announcement that the border project, which is opposed by Democrats, would receive \$3.6 billion that Congress originally provided for military construction projects and \$2.5 billion from the Pentagon's 2019 drug interdiction program.

Shanahan, however, indicated that he has the discretion to provide less, although he said the \$3.6 billion figure is likely to prove correct. He stressed that he has not yet made any decisions.

"You can trust the numbers in terms of the potential" he said, referring to the \$3.6 billion and



Acting Secretary of Defense Pat Shanahan talks to the media at the International Security Conference in Munich, Germany, on Friday. Shanahan says he has wide discretion on diverting military funds to help construct a border wall.

TOBIAS HASE, DPA/AP

\$2.5 billion.

Ultimately, the amounts will be determined by linking the available funds to specific border security projects, he said, adding that those connections are not yet complete.

The law allowing a repurposing of military construction funds during a national emergency says the secretary of defense is au-

thorized "to determine whether border barriers are necessary to support the use of the armed forces" in an emergency.

Asked whether that means he can decide whether a wall is militarily necessary, he said, "For us the determination will be made in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security." He said later, "There have been no

determinations by me."

He also said the staff that supports the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon has been working out a "mission analysis" of border security needs, including a recommendation on where barriers should be prioritized. That work began some time ago in anticipation of a possible Trump emergency declaration.

"I will go in and review that analysis now that an emergency has been declared," he said, adding later, "Very deliberately, we have not made any decisions. We have identified the steps we would take to make those decisions. ... We don't want to fumble through this process" or take false steps.

A defense official said later that Shanahan is scheduled to be briefed in coming days by the military service secretaries and his internal staff on funding sources and likely project priorities. The official spoke to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Shanahan said he was aware of the political hazards of diverting military construction money from high-priority areas like military housing, suggesting he would attempt to avoid that.

Rep. Mac Thornberry, of Texas, the top Republican on the House Armed Services Committee, said before Trump's announcement that while he favors spending more on border security, he opposes diverting "significant" sums from the Pentagon budget.

"Doing so would have detrimental consequences for our troops as military infrastructure was one of the accounts most deprived during the Obama-era defense cuts," Thornberry said Thursday. "And it would undercut one of the most significant accomplishments of the last two years — beginning to repair and rebuild our military. I hope that the president will pursue other options."

## Adviser vows Trump veto if Congress disapproves of declaration

By ZEKE MILLER  
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. — A top adviser to President Donald Trump indicated Sunday that Trump is prepared to issue the first veto of his term if Congress votes to disapprove of his declaration of a national emergency along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The West Wing is digging in for fights on multiple fronts as the president's effort to go around Congress to fund his long-promised border wall faces bipartisan criticism and multiple legal challenges.

After lawmakers in both parties blocked his requests for billions of dollars to fulfill his signature campaign pledge, Trump's declared national emergency Friday shifts billions of federal dollars earmarked for military construction to the border.

White House senior adviser Stephen Miller told "Fox News Sunday" that "the president is going to protect his national emergency declaration." Asked if that meant Trump was ready to veto a resolution of disapproval, Miller said, "He's going to protect his national emergency declaration, guaranteed."

California Attorney General Xavier Becerra told ABC's "This Week" that his state would sue "imminently" to block the order, after the American Civil Liberties Union and the nonprofit watchdog group Public Citizen announced Friday they were taking legal action.

Democrats are planning to introduce a resolution disapproving of the declaration once Congress returns to session and it is



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump speaks during an event in the Rose Garden at the White House on Friday to declare a national emergency in order to build a wall along the southern U.S. border.

likely to pass both chambers.

Several Republican senators are already indicating they would vote against Trump — though there do not yet appear to be enough votes to override a veto by the president.

The White House's Miller insisted that Congress granted the president wide berth under the National Emergencies Act to take action.

But Trump's declaration goes beyond previous emergencies in shifting money

after Congress blocked his funding request for the wall, which will likely factor in legal challenges.

Trump aides acknowledge that Trump cannot meet his pledge to build the wall by the time voters decide whether to grant him another term next year, but insist his base will remain by his side as long as he is not perceived to have given up the fight on the barrier.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., told CBS's "Face the Nation" that he believes Congress needs to act to "defend" its powers of the purse.

"I do think that we should not set the terrible precedent of letting a president declare a national emergency simply as a way of getting around the congressional appropriations process," he said.

Rep. Will Hurd, R-Texas, a critic of Trump's border policies, said he would support legislation to review Trump's emergency declaration, saying, "It sets a dangerous precedent."

"My concern is our government wasn't designed to operate by national emergency," he told CBS.

Trump ally Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, told ABC that he believes there are enough GOP votes to prevent the supermajorities required to override a veto.

"I think there are plenty of votes in the House to make sure that there's no override of the president's veto," he said. "So it's going to be settled in court. We'll have to wait and see."



## NATION

# Fate of NC election will be considered at hearing

By AMY GARDNER  
The Washington Post

Investigators on Monday will begin revealing the breadth of an alleged ballot-tampering scheme in North Carolina, launching a potentially bitter and partisan battle over how to fill a congressional seat that has remained vacant since January.

When it opens a long-anticipated hearing Monday morning in Raleigh, the North Carolina State Board of Elections will be listening for evidence to judge whether enough ballots were affected in tiny Bladen County to taint the outcome in the 9th Congressional District. The board has the power to call for a new election or certify the November results.

The election has been in limbo since November when evidence surfaced that a political operative paid by Republican candidate Mark Harris had assembled a crew of election workers to collect mail-in ballots from voters, a felony in North Carolina. With Harris' aide, Donald Trump, have alleged by just 905 votes, the board declined to certify the results and launched a wide-reaching investigation instead.

The allegations have prompted Democrats to demand a new election, while Republicans, citing the evidence of public evidence that fraud affected the outcome, have called repeatedly for Harris to be sworn in.

The investigation has refocused the national debate about election fraud. Republicans, led by President Donald Trump, have alleged widespread voter fraud and advocated strict ID laws and criminal prosecutions. Democrats have argued that the kind of in-person fraud Republicans have targeted is rare, accusing their opponents of trying to hinder ballot access and intimidate voters who typically vote Democratic. The North Carolina case reverses those roles in some ways.

Adding to the partisan animosity, the state elections board requires a supermajority of four votes to call for a new election. With three Democrats and two Republicans, the board will not have the votes to take any action at all if its members vote along partisan lines. That would turn attention to Congress, which also has the power to order a new election.

Neither side knows what the state's evidence will show. Two big unanswered questions: Did Harris, a 52-year-old evangelical pastor from the suburbs of Charlotte, know about the alleged scheme? And were enough ballots affected by fraud to change the outcome of the election?

No evidence has emerged so far to show either, although Harris personally directed the hiring of the aide, an adept field operative and Bladen County native named Leslie McCree Dowless, despite being warned about his tactics.

Harris has said repeatedly that he had no knowledge of Dowless' allegedly illegal tactics.

"We don't know what the allegations are," said Harris lawyer David Freedman. "We don't really know who the witnesses are going to be. We've not seen any sort of report."

Witnesses in interviews and affidavits said Dowless' allegedly fraudulent operation on Harris' behalf involved collecting incomplete and unsealed ballots, an illegal practice. Investigators are also examining whether Dowless or those working for him illegally discarded ballots.

Dowless, 63, was investigated in 2016 when he helped deliver an overwhelming share of the mail-in vote in Bladen County for a different Republican congressional candidate, Todd Johnson. The 9th District stretches along the South Carolina border from Charlotte to rural, eastern North Carolina.

Former Rep. Robert Pittenger, whom Harris defeated in the Republican primary last June, told The Post in December that Dowless approached him in 2016 but he declined to hire him. "I just knew I didn't want to be involved with him," Pittenger said. "Dowless's efforts were widely known, and we did share our concerns with several people."

Since opening the most recent probe late last year, investigators have published reams of evidence and affidavits on the state board's website, including examples of absentee ballots allegedly collected and turned in by Dowless or his crew.

The evidence has not shown that enough ballots were tampered with to change the outcome of the election, which has prompted the Harris campaign to assume that such evidence doesn't exist.

Investigators are likely to address whether anyone inside the Bladen County Board of Elections was aware of the scheme and participated in it — a prospect that would allow the board to declare the results generally tainted, which state law allows as grounds for calling for a new election.

The board published evidence in December that the county election staff improperly released early voting results, but it is unknown if the results were given to Dowless.

The lack of information has not stopped the parties from drawing their battle lines ahead of the hearing.

In a brief filed last week with the state board, the McCree campaign, represented by prominent Democratic lawyer Marc Elias, argued that the alleged ballot tampering taints the entire

election and warrants calling for a new one.

"Evidence of ballot tampering performed by Harris' hand-picked operative casts a cloud of suspicion on all the (absentee) ballots cast in the election," the McCree brief states, and is "more than sufficient" to justify calling for a new election.

Harris' team, in turn, will argue for certification, Freedman said.

"With as many investigators as have been down there, reporters and our own investigation, it's hard for me to believe there are matters that will arise that have not already been exposed," Freedman said.

Still, there was evidence of caution on both sides. The GOP has claimed widespread fraud to justify strict new voter identification laws and far-reaching crackdowns on noncitizen voting, some in the party have noted the potential contradiction of downplaying evidence of the alleged election-fraud scheme in Bladen.

And some Democrats in Washington said they are grappling with the risk of overreaching if they call for a new election without overwhelming evidence that ballot-tampering was widespread enough to affect the outcome in November.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

U.S. Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., addresses a gathering during a campaign stop in Portsmouth, N.H., on Saturday.

## Early voting states are focus for Democrats in 2020 contest

By ELANA SCHOR  
Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidates are courting voters in states with influential early roles in the 2020 primary as the busy pace of campaigning over the holiday weekend shows that the contest to challenge President Donald Trump is fully underway.

The brisk pace of the candidates' stops Sunday in New Hampshire, Iowa and Nevada points to the up-for-grabs state of the race in its early stages. And Congress' Presidents Day recess gives the senators already running some extra time to promote their agendas.

Sen. Cory Booker, of New Jersey, is continuing his swing through New Hampshire. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, of Minnesota, is set to visit Iowa. And Sen. Elizabeth Warren, of Massachu-

setts, plans to be in Nevada, the first Western state to vote in the primary.

Booker told voters Saturday there are a "lot of pathways" to achieving universal health coverage and that just lowering Medicare eligibility to age 55 would be "a step in the right direction."

Klobuchar, after appearances in Minnesota and Wisconsin, is taking her case for Midwestern neighborly appeal to the state that opens voting with its caucuses.

Warren heads to the West after campaigning in the South on Saturday. She met with an estimated 800 voters in Greenville, S.C., before heading to Georgia for an early appearance that signals Democratic hopes to make inroads in the South.

Sen. Kamala Harris, of California, is due in New Hampshire on Monday following a two-day stop in South Carolina.



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## NATION

# Ill. warehouse shooter owned gun illegally

By DON BABWIN  
AND CARYN ROUSSEAU  
Associated Press

AURORA, Ill. — The man who opened fire and killed five co-workers including the plant manager, human resources manager and an intern working his first day at a suburban Chicago manufacturing warehouse took a gun he wasn't supposed to have to a job he was about to lose.

Right after learning Friday that he was being fired from his job of 15 years at the Henry Pratt Co. in Aurora, Gary Martin pulled out a gun and began shooting, killing the three people in the room with him and two others just outside and wounding a sixth employee, police said Saturday.

Martin shot and wounded five of the first officers to get to the scene, including one who didn't even make it inside the sprawling warehouse in Aurora, a city of 200,000 about 40 miles west of Chicago.



MATT MARTON/AP

Law enforcement officers gather on Friday outside the Henry Pratt Co. manufacturing plant in Aurora, Ill., where a gunman killed five people and wounded five police officers.

After that flurry of shots and with officers from throughout the region streaming in to help, he ran off and hid in the back of the building, where officers found him about an hour later and killed him during an exchange of gunfire, police said.

"He was probably waiting for

us to get to him there," Aurora police Lt. Rick Robertson said. "It was just a very short gunfight and it was over, so he was basically in the back waiting for us and fired upon us and our officers fired."

Like in many of the country's mass shootings, Friday's attack was carried out by a man with a

violent criminal history who was armed with a gun he wasn't supposed to have.

Martin, 45, had six arrests over the years in Aurora for what police Chief Kristen Ziman described as "traffic- and domestic battery-related issues" and for violating an order of protection. He also had a

1995 felony conviction for aggravated assault in Mississippi that should have prevented him from buying his gun, Ziman said.

He was able to buy the Smith and Wesson .40-caliber handgun on March 11, 2014, because he was issued a firearm owner's identification card two months earlier after passing an initial background check.

It wasn't until he applied for a concealed carry permit five days after buying the gun and went through a more rigorous background check using digital fingerprinting that his Mississippi conviction was flagged and his firearm owner's ID card was revoked, Ziman said. Once his card was revoked, he could no longer legally have a gun.



Martin



DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP

Teachers carry placards as they walk a picket line outside South High School in Denver last week. Teachers in Oakland, Calif., have announced that they also will go on strike this week.

## Oakland teachers may join wave of US strikes

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Oakland, Calif., teachers say they will strike starting Thursday.

The union representing the 3,000 teachers announced the walkout Saturday, making it the latest in a wave of educator activism that has swept the U.S. since last spring.

The union wants smaller class sizes, more counselors and full-time nurses and a 12 percent raise over three years. The district has offered 5 percent and says it is squeezed by rising costs.

The action comes a day after the sides received compromise recommendations in a fact-finding report.

Oakland Unified School District Superintendent Kyla Johnson-Trammell said Friday she was pleased with the recommendations and hoped it would coax the

union back to negotiations.

"If both sides are committed to settling the contract before a strike occurs — and we are — an agreement can certainly be reached without disrupting the educational experience for students, families and staff," she said in a statement Saturday.

But union president Keith Brown said the teachers will strike unless the district dramatically changes its spending approach.

"We will strike for our students, we will strike for education justice, we will strike for racial justice," Brown said at a news conference Saturday. "We will strike for the future of public education in Oakland."

The strike would follow one by Denver teachers, who ended a three-day walkout last week after reaching a tentative deal raising their wages.

## Trump's pick for UN ambassador withdraws from consideration

By ANNE GEARAN  
The Washington Post

President Donald Trump's pick to be the next United Nations ambassador withdrew from consideration Saturday, the State Department said.

The department's spokeswoman, Heather Nauert, had been tapped to succeed Nikki Haley at the United Nations, but her name was never formally sent to the Senate for confirmation.

"Today, Heather Nauert withdrew herself from consideration for the nomination of U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. The president will make an announcement with respect to a nominee for U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations soon," deputy spokesman Robert Palladino said in a statement.

The withdrawal is related to the employment of a nanny who

was in the country illegally, said three people who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the matter.

But according to a person familiar with Nauert's situation, the nanny was in the country legally. She was a Jamaican national employed by Nauert and her husband 10 years ago. The Nauerts paid her salary in cash. When they discovered she was not paying taxes, they insisted the tax bill be paid, the person said.

Nauert fled the nanny situation to Diplomatic Security at the outset of the vetting process and was assured it would not be

a sufficient matter to derail her confirmation, said the person, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the matter.

Nauert, a former Fox News journalist, served as State Department spokeswoman during the tenure of Rex Tillerson, who was forced out last year, and for Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

"I am grateful to President Trump and Secretary Pompeo for the trust they placed in me for considering me for the position of U.S. ambassador to the United Nations," Nauert said in the statement.

"However, the past two months have been grueling for my family and therefore it is in the best interest of my family that I withdraw my name from consideration," she said, an apparent reference to the lag in submitting her formal nomination and opposition by some senators to her nomination.



Nauert

## Former Army secretary laid to rest in Va.

Associated Press

NEW MARKET, Va. — Former Secretary of the Army John Marsh Jr. was laid to rest Friday at a Civil War battlefield in Virginia where he developed a love for history and the military.

Marsh, who also served four terms as Virginia's 7th District congressman, died Feb. 4 at Blue Ridge Christian Home in Raphine. He was 92.

Former Vice President Dick Cheney was among the mourners who gathered Friday for Marsh's funeral at the Virginia Museum of the Civil War and burial at New

Market Battlefield State Historical Park, The Northern Virginia Daily reported.

Cheney said some of Marsh's admirable qualities were a love for the Army, in-depth knowledge of history and the ability to rise above partisanship. He said Marsh was the epitome of a patriotic American, loyal soldier and successful statesman.

After leaving Congress in 1971, Marsh served as an assistant secretary of defense and national security assistant to Vice President Gerald Ford, whom he later served as presidential counselor. He served as Army

secretary from 1981 to 1989.

Col. Keith Gibson said Marsh visited the New Market Battlefield as a child and was captivated by its history.

"For that young boy, the battle was more than a booming cannon and flashing sabers," Gibson said. "For Jack Marsh, the battle was a demonstration of the most vital elements of character and human conduct, public service, duty, integrity, selflessness."

Chaplain Robert Phillips said Marsh "was ready to go" during his last days and showed no fear, angst or "uncertainty of the unknown."



## NATION

# Airlines to offer 'nonbinary' gender ticketing choice

By DAVID KOENIG  
Associated Press

DALLAS — Major U.S. airlines say they will soon change their ticketing process to give passengers the option of identifying themselves as other than male or female.

The gender option on airline sites will soon include choices such as "undisclosed" or "unspecified." There could also be the optional title of "Mx."

The airlines say they are making the change to be more inclusive in dealing with a diverse population of travelers.

The move was praised by advocacy groups for transgender people.

"It's a significant step forward for nonbinary individuals so they are not faced with a mismatch between their ticketing information and their legal identification," said Beck Bailey, of the Human Rights Campaign.

The Transportation Security Administration says passengers

should use the name, gender and birth date on their government-issued ID.

Bailey said he did not know of people with nonbinary identification being kept off planes or trains, but that fear of being stopped added to their stress.

American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, United Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Alaska Airlines and JetBlue confirmed Friday that they are in the process of updating their booking tools and plan to add a binary option to the gender menu on their sites. They said the change will be made in the next several weeks.

"We certainly have a very diverse customer base. This will be well-received, and we're happy to do it," American Airlines spokesman Matt Miller said.

United Airlines plans to let people select M for male, F for female, U for undisclosed or X for unspecified from the gender menu when booking a ticket on its website or mobile app, said spokeswoman



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

**Passengers check in for Delta Air Lines flights at kiosks at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Atlanta. Airline sites will soon include additional gender options.**

Andrea Hiller. They will also have the option of picking "Mx" as a title. Hiller said the airline wants to make sure that "all of our customers feel comfortable and welcome no matter how they self-identify."

U.S. and international airline trade groups recently approved a new standard to handle customers with "nonbinary" IDs.

The standard, which is not mandatory but more like guid-

ance, takes effect June 1.

Airlines for America and the International Air Transport Association say the change will let airlines comply with requirements under U.S. and foreign laws that passenger information must match what is on the person's form of ID used for travel.

In 2017, Oregon became the first state to let residents identify themselves as neither male nor female on driver licenses and

other ID cards. California, Colorado, Maine, Minnesota, Arkansas and the District of Columbia also allow a nonbinary choice on licenses.

Those changes led the National Center for Transgender Equality and Human Rights Campaign to recommend that transgender people carry a second identification such as a passport that shows their sex as it appears on their ticket.

## Potential privacy lapse found in Americans' 2010 census data

By SETH BORENSTEIN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An internal team at the U.S. Census Bureau found that basic personal information collected from more than 100 million Americans during the 2010 head count could be reconstructed from obscured data, but with lots of mistakes, a top agency official disclosed Saturday.

The age, gender, location, race and ethnicity for 138 million people were potentially vulnerable. So far, however, only internal hacking teams have discovered such details at possible risk, and no outside groups are known to have grabbed data intended to remain private for 72 years, chief scientist John Abowd told a scientific conference.

The Census Bureau is now scrapping its old data-shielding technique for a state-of-the-art method that Abowd claimed is far better than Google's or Apple's. Some former agency chiefs fear the potential privacy problem will add to the worries that people will avoid answering or lie on the once-every-10-year survey because of the Trump administration's attempt to add a much-debated citizenship question.

The Supreme Court on Friday announced that it would rule on that pro-

**"[T]he 2020 census will be the safest and best-protected ever. And this is not as easy as it sounds."**

John Abowd  
chief scientist at the U.S. Census Bureau

posed question, which has been criticized for being political and not properly tested in the field.

The census count is hugely important in helping with the allocation of seats in the House of Representatives and distribution of billions of dollars in federal money.

The 8 billion pieces of statistics in census data are supposed to be jumbled in a way so what is released publicly for research cannot identify individuals for more than seven decades. In 2010, the Census Bureau did that by swapping similar household information from one city to another, according to Duke University statistics professor Jerome Reiter.

In the internal tests, Abowd said, officials were able to match 45 percent of the people who answered the 2010 census with information from public and commercial data sets such as Facebook. But errors in this technique meant that only data for 52

million people would be completely correct — little more than 1 in 6 of the U.S. population.

He said the 2010 census used the best possible privacy protection available, but hackers since then have become more skilled in reconstructing data. To counter their growing abilities, the agency has completely changed the system for 2020 and will offer the "gold standard" of privacy regardless of the fate of the citizenship question, Abowd said.

People "want to know that statistical tables aren't going to come back and haunt them," Abowd said at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual meeting. "I promise the American people they will have the privacy that they deserve."

Georgetown University provost Robert Groves, who headed the 2010 census, said the count had the proper privacy and that

every census improves. He lauded the new steps.

Former agency chief Kenneth Prewitt, a professor of policy at Columbia University, said the basic information such as age and ethnicity, even if publicly revealed, isn't as big a deal as other data breaches.

"There is a widespread privacy anxiety out there that is very much related to Facebook and Google and so forth," Prewitt said. "I'm much more worried about the fact that my iPhone follows me around every day."

In a statement, Apple's Fred Sainz took issue with such privacy concerns, saying: "The iPhone doesn't follow you around all day long — Apple has no idea where you are nor do we care. And Apple does not sell information to companies." He noted, however, that consumers can choose apps that know their location.

Abowd said "the 2020 census will be the safest and best-protected ever. And this is not as easy as it sounds."

The new system involves complex mathematical algorithms that inject "noise" into the data, making it harder to get accurate information and providing "a very strong guarantee" of privacy, said Duke University computer sciences professor Ashwin Machanavajjhala.

## It's huge: Third annual Bigfoot Conference draws hundreds to Nebraska

Associated Press

HASTINGS, Neb. — It's big — and it's back. The third annual Bigfoot Conference has drawn an estimated 700 people to the

city of Hastings.

Television station KSNB reported that the conference kicked off Friday and ran through Sunday.

Some believe the creature is

mythical; others say it's merely elusive.

Whatever their beliefs, speakers from all over and outside the country convene at the con-

ference to share their thoughts about and experiences with the creature.

Adams County Visitors Bureau Executive Director Anjanette

Bonham said skeptics and believers alike attend to see what they can learn. Bonham said attendees come from all over the United States and Canada.

## NATION

## SC reassesses global warming role in storms

By JEFFREY COLLINS

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — When he took the job 15 years ago, Horry County Emergency Manager Randy Webster figured his biggest disasters would be wind and surge rolling over his county's beaches, South Carolina's top tourist destination.

Instead, his worries have shifted inland, where rivers overflowing their banks have caused two massive floods in three years.

"We're getting into this sort of unknown territory," Webster said. "We typically in emergency management have some point of reference to work with. Two floods like this — it's unheard of."

Scientists say the Earth's warming climate means more heavy rainfall over short periods of time, and that translates to larger, more ferocious storms on the scale of 2017's Hurricane Harvey in Texas or 2018's Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas. Florence dumped six months' worth of rain on the Carolinas in the course of just a few days.

The growing realization that such events are going to become more common as the result of global warming is forcing Webster and other state officials to revisit how they prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

Late last year, Republican Gov. Henry McMaster created the South Carolina Floodwater Commission to figure out how to better combat flooding unleashed by hurricanes, rising ocean levels and other rain systems upstream that send rivers and creeks over their banks on the way to the Atlantic Ocean.

One thing that local governments must do is use forecast tools that predict several different scenarios based on possible temperature rise, rather than relying on flood maps of the past, when severe inundations were rare, said Larry Larson, a former director and senior policy adviser for the Association of State Floodplain Managers.

They also should be prepared to alter landscapes, divert runoff, and to buy up houses and other private properties that frequently end up under water, and to elevate those buildings if necessary, Larson said.

"These owners won't sell after the first flood; they think they have another 99 years to go," he said, "but they will sell after the second flood."

Property owners are resistant because of the cues they get from weather forecasters and government officials, who still employ such terminology as "100-year" floods. Despite its name, a 100-year flood doesn't mean once-in-a-lifetime. Instead, it means a level of flooding that has a 1 percent chance of happening in any particular year, said Susan L. Cutter, director of the Hazards and Vulnerability Research Institute at the University of South Carolina.

"People are not really good at understanding probability," Cut-



PHOTOS BY SEAN RAYFORD/AP

Joshua Voaklander works to repair his home, which was damaged by flooding from Hurricane Florence, on Feb. 1 in Conway, S.C. Voaklander said if floodwaters come inside the house again, he is moving.



Austin Black works on Feb. 1 to repair a home damaged by flooding from Hurricane Florence near Crabtree Swamp in Conway. The structure is scheduled to be raised.



A travel camper sits in the driveway outside a home in Conway being raised on Feb. 1 after it was damaged by floodwaters from Hurricane Florence.

ter said.

Dealing with the consequences of natural disasters is daunting even when residents receive advance notice. Emergency officials in Conway, a city of 23,000 about 15 miles from the beach, took the map of Hurricane Matthew's flooding in 2016 and — based on forecasts — drew the lines out a little farther, accurately predicting nearly to a home which ones would flood during Hurricane Florence in September. That gave residents a week or more to get whatever they could out of their homes.

Kevin Tovornik was one of them. Tovornik lost his air conditioner and ductwork in the 2016

flood. In 2018, he saved his furniture but still ended up losing the house. For a while, he paid two mortgages: this one and one on a townhome he had to move into 30 miles away. To save money, he now lives in an RV in his yard in Conway. He hasn't been able to start repairs on the house because too much rain has fallen over the past few months for anything to dry out.

Tovornik and his wife don't want to rebuild. He said he would now have to elevate the house with no guarantee there isn't another record flood to come on the Waccamaw River, which crested 3.5 feet above the level it reached during Matthew. But at the mo-

ment, he can get back only 75 percent of the appraised value of the house through the federal government's buyback program.

As they consider how to plan for and react to future weather events, the governor and fellow politically conservative members of the South Carolina Floodwater Commission aren't quite ready to accept the general consensus among scientists that pollution and other manmade factors are largely to blame for climate change.

The commission's leader, attorney and environmental professor Tom Mullikin, said solving the problem can't be derailed by what he described as politically

charged debates over the cause.

"We are going to deal with the real-time impacts of a climate that has changed throughout all of time," Mullikin said. "We — the governor — is not entertaining a political conversation."

Whatever the causes of the extreme weather, meteorologists say it will strike again as it did last year, when more than 100 reporting stations, mostly east of the Mississippi River, recorded more rainfall than at any other time, according to the Southeast Regional Climate Center.

Weather experts are also investigating potentially record rainfall in South Carolina and North Carolina last year.



## WORLD

## UK teen who joined ISIS has baby in Syria

LONDON — The family of a British teenager who ran away to join Islamic State said Sunday she has given birth to a baby boy.

The family's lawyer said Shamina Begum, 19, and her latest baby are in good health. Begum is living in a refugee camp in northern Syria and wants to return to Britain with her child.

Begum was one of a group of schoolgirls from London's Bethnal Green neighborhood who went to Syria to marry ISIS fighters in 2015.

She told The Times newspaper that her first two babies had died of illness and malnutrition. She told the newspaper she does not regret her decision to join the extremists, who have lost virtually all of the territory once under their control in Syria and Iraq.

## Hundreds stranded as British airline collapses

LONDON — Hundreds of passengers throughout Europe were stranded by the abrupt collapse of the British regional airline Flybmi.

British Midland Regional Limited, which operates as Flybmi, said it's filing for administration — a British version of bankruptcy — because of higher fuel costs and uncertainty caused by Britain's upcoming departure from the European Union.

The airline operated 17 jets on routes to 25 European cities.

## Iran points to Pakistan after attack on Guard

TEHRAN, Iran — Iran's parliament speaker said Sunday that an attack that killed 27 members of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard was "planned and carried out from inside Pakistan," which he said should answer for it.

Ali Larijani's remarks, carried by the state-run IRNA news agency, came after Iranian officials initially accused Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates of being behind the attack. The Gulf Arab states are deeply suspicious of Tehran and at war with Iran-aligned rebels in Yemen.

Iran's Foreign Ministry summoned Pakistan's ambassador on Sunday to protest the attack.

Pakistan's condemned Wednesday's attack but had not commented on the allegations.

## Thousands in Serbia protest for 11th week

BELGRADE, Serbia — Thousands of people rallied in Serbia's capital for the 11th week in a row against populist President Aleksandar Vucic and his government.

The crowds at Saturday's protest lit flares outside the parliament building and chanted anti-government slogans. Opposition parties, meanwhile, offered an "agreement" to the citizens pledging to restore democracy they say Vucic has stifled.

The street protests have spread to other towns challenging Vucic, a far-right nationalist who now says he supports Serbia's European Union membership bid.

From The Associated Press

## Brexit limbo leaves many in UK anxious

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

LONDON — It's said that history often repeats itself — the first time as tragedy, the second as farce. Many Britons feel they are living through both at the same time as their country navigates its way out of the European Union.

The British government awarded a contract to ship in emergency supplies to a company with no ships. It pledged to replace citizens' burgundy European passports with proudly British blue ones — and gave the contract to a Franco-Dutch company. It promised to forge trade deals with 73 countries by the end of March, but two years later has only a handful in place (including one with the Faroe Islands).

Pretty much everyone in the U.K. agrees that the Conservative government's handling of Brexit has been disastrous. Unfortunately, that's about the only thing this divided nation can agree on.

With Britain due to leave the EU in six weeks and still no deal in sight on the terms of its departure, both supporters and opponents of Brexit are in a state of high anxiety.

Pro-EU "remainers" lament the looming end of Britons' right to live



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Anti-Brexit demonstrators stand next to a van with large cartoon-style portraits of leading British politicians outside the Palace of Westminster in London on Thursday.

and work in 27 other European nations and fear the U.K. is about to crash out of the bloc without even a divorce deal to cushion the blow.

Brexiters worry that their dream of leaving the EU will be dashed by bureaucratic shenanigans that will delay its departure or keep Britain bound to EU regulations forever.

It has been more than 2½ years since Britons voted 52 to 48 percent to leave the EU. Then came many months of tense negotiations

to settle on Brexit departure terms and the outline of future relations.

At last, the EU and Prime Minister Theresa May's government struck a deal — then saw it resoundingly rejected last month by Britain's Parliament, which like the rest of the country has split into pro-Brexit and pro-EU camps.

May is now seeking changes to the Brexit deal in hope of getting it through Parliament before March 29. EU leaders say they won't re-

negotiate, and accuse Britain of failing to offer a way out of the impasse.

May insists she won't ask the EU to delay Britain's departure, and has refused to rule out a cliff-edge no-deal Brexit.

Meanwhile, Brexit has clogged the gears of Britain's economic and political life. The economy has stalled, growing by only 0.2 percent in the fourth quarter as business investment registered a fourth straight quarterly decline.

Britain still does not have a deal on future trade with the EU, and it's unclear what tariffs or other barriers British firms that do business with Europe will face after March 29.

Some pro-Europeans have hit back against Brexit with despairing humor.

Four friends have started plastering billboards in London with 20-by-10-foot images of pro-Brexit politicians' past tweets to expose what the group sees as their hypocrisy.

Highlights included former U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage's vow that "if Brexit is a disaster, I will go and live abroad," and ex-Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson's pledge to "make a titanic success" of Brexit.

## Anti-Semitic remarks during French protest prompt investigation

Associated Press

PARIS — Paris authorities opened an investigation Sunday into anti-Semitic remarks hurled at a noted philosopher during a yellow vest protest in the capital, an incident that raised national concerns about the movement's ascendant radical fringe.

The Paris prosecutor's office said Sunday an investigation was launched into "public insult based on origin, ethnicity, nationality, race or religion."

A few demonstrators targeted philosopher Alain Finkielkraut with insults on the sidelines of a yellow vest protest through

Paris on Saturday. The shocking incident prompted criticism from French President Emmanuel Macron and other prominent figures.

Meanwhile, yellow vest demonstrators called for multiple rallies around Paris and some other French cities Sunday, including a march expected to start at the Arc de Triomphe monument.

The increasingly divided movement has held protests every Saturday since Nov. 17, but some groups were holding rallies Sunday to celebrate the movement's three-month birthday.

An online invitation to Sunday's main Paris march says, "Let's



THIBAUT CAMUS/AP

A man holds a banner that reads, "People can change everything" during a protest march in Paris on Sunday.

stay peaceful."

Police fired tear gas and brought in water cannons and a horse brigade to disperse yellow vest protesters Saturday in Paris.

The movement, which began as protests against a fuel tax increase, has broadened to in-

clude a range of concerns about France's living standards and the economic stresses facing ordinary families.

The movement's name comes from the fluorescent yellow vests that French motorists must keep in their cars for emergencies.

## Mexico says migrant shelter near border to close soon

Associated Press

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, Mexico — An improvised shelter where hundreds of Central American migrants have been confined in the border city of Piedras Negras, across from Eagle Pass, Texas, will close this week, authorities said Sunday.

Coahuila State Public Safety Secretary Jose Luis Pliego said the shelter in an abandoned factory has served its purpose, which was to provide attention to the migrants and process their migratory status.

It is expected to close Wednesday, and authorities have begun taking some migrants to

neighboring states such as Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas to be incorporated into the workforce while others may seek other options to try to cross into the United States.

Pliego said about 1,500 now have papers that let them move freely in Mexico. Some 400 have already been taken to other states, and about 70 were deported to their home countries for purportedly disturbing the peace.

"Given the conditions we have right now, the advances in registrations, the advances in providing documents" and the fact that many who were ill when they arrived have been or are being treated, Pliego said, "the purpose of

the shelter has practically concluded."

Soldiers in camouflage and body armor formed a perimeter outside the facility Saturday, resting casually on riot shields as migrants milled about on the other side of the yellow chain-link fence. A helicopter buzzed overhead. Some boarded buses to be transported elsewhere.

The migrants have wanted to appear at the U.S. border to apply for asylum, but only about a dozen per day have been allowed to do so.

Pliego said he was aware of another possible migrant caravan from Honduras, but it was not clear where it would head once in Mexico.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekly, except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1, for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45502, APO AF 96301-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45502, APO AF 96301-5002.

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# OPINION

## The Middle East still needs democracy

By REUEL MARC GERECHT  
Special to The Washington Post

Many Americans remain wary, if not hostile, to the idea of democracy promotion in the Middle East. The Iraq War, which wasn't launched to bring people power to Mesopotamia, is seen by most critics as the great catastrophe of Americans who wanted to export representative government. The failure of the "Arab Spring" to produce anything but bloodshed and continuing autocracy beyond Tunisia, where the regionwide revolt started in 2010 and democracy has held, has further reinforced the view that the United States really shouldn't back a rootless, convulsive cause. The American right sees Muslims as a bad Enlightenment bet; the left is more critical of Middle Eastern tyrannies (except in Iran and the Palestinian territories) but is extremely aware to "nation-building" in Islamic lands.

But unrest in the Middle East didn't start with elections. The region remains tumultuous in great part because the legitimacy of dictatorship has collapsed. Fear of chaos, which autocrats always encourage, gives rulers some breathing space — but not a lot, which is why autocracies have become more severe in the region.

Iran's theocracy lives in constant fear of popular upheavals. Egypt is a ticking, bankrupt time bomb as the army shuts down all opposition. Political reform is way overdue in the ever-profligate, increasingly authoritarian Gulf states — especially in Saudi Arabia, where the crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, has converted an unpleasant, arch-conservative kingdom into a clumsy but nasty surveillance state. Turkey under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is a different case. An Islamic populist has used an institutionally weak democracy to enthrone himself as pasha. The good news is that close to half of Turkey's electorate wants to see the country return to a more liberal path. Democratic practices, however controlled by Kemal-

ists and Islamists, have created aspirations and expectations that authoritarianism can't dismiss.

And if we are serious about defanging jihad, political pluralism in the Middle East is surely an essential part of that process. Democracy doesn't necessarily produce contented societies, but it does fundamentally alter notions of the sacred and the profane, especially the lawfulness of violence.

Violent Islamist militants have feared Muslims voting. Islam is acutely uncomfortable with the idea that a majority of Muslims can be bad Muslims. The Nile Valley's democratic experiment, which was well on the way to rendering a harsh judgment against elected Islamists, was short-circuited by Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's coup in 2013.

American counterterrorism aid to Arab states has overwhelmingly been premised on an elitist contention that with enough brute force, ruling regimes can control the radical threat. The Trump administration certainly wants to believe that religious moderation can arrive without political reform. Hence the White House's enthusiasm for el-Sissi and Saudi Arabia's enfant terrible, the crown prince.

Yet dictators commanding an obedient clergy to "reform" the faith have distanced the ulama, the clergy, from the faithful and opened a vast realm to dissidents. "Westernizing" tyrannies in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia and Iran, which destroyed the customs and civility of the old order, naturally produced violent Islamists. What the Trump administration is in effect hoping for after the horrors of Islamic State and al-Qaida, is that "modernizing," anti-Islamist authoritarianism now will bring better results.

But Syrian Sunni society hasn't become more secular or religiously quiescent after experiencing jihadi violence. (The savagery of the secular regime of Bashar Assad has been much worse.) Iraq remains a hopeful wild card precisely because its democratic

politics, though ugly, have been resilient, which means secular and religious Shiites and Sunnis still build coalitions. Scared and shamed by Saddam Hussein's totalitarianism, the country's Shiite clergy have staunchly backed popular sovereignty.

American foreign policy in the region is now centered on the Islamic Republic of Iran, and yet the White House has, so far, given minimal attention to supporting democracy where millions have hit the streets for the cause. Criticisms of Tehran's primary rivals, the Sunni Gulf Arab autocracies, are muted. Trump and senior officials say nary a word about el-Sissi's massive prison camps. Minus little slaps, the administration ignores Erdogan's tyranny.

A sensible American foreign policy would reverse course. With Arab rulers, we would clearly acknowledge that unchecked autocracy brings on revolution and religious extremism. With Turkey, Iraq and Tunisia's post-World War II history apply: Many democracies have emerged, grown stronger, sometimes only survived because the United States invested in their defense. And "principled realism" ought to be based on Iran. It is increasingly clear that Washington is, at best, prepared only to delay the mullahs' acquisition of nuclear weapons. Republicans and Democrats really ought to take more seriously the Iranian people's long quest for self-government.

The United States, a declining power, isn't going to transform the Middle East. But it can still aid a cause that could restore some dignity, pride and purpose to the region. Authoritarianism, however revamped by billionaire princes and sheikhs, is not going to bring stability, security, religious reform or basic decency. Westerners need to be more honest and humble about their own bloody past — the long, tortuous road to democracy. Muslims need time — and fewer Western apologists for dictatorship.

Reuel Marc Gerecht, a former CIA case officer, is a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies.

## Scaring off Amazon will backfire on the left

By CONOR SEN  
Bloomberg News

Amazon announcing it will not put one of its new North America headquarters in New York City is the latest in a bad run of events that raise the possibility that progressives have overplayed their hand. While progressives may be newly energized after electoral success in November's elections, they don't have the electoral mandate they believe they do, and they still have to answer how they intend to implement their ambitious agenda with little to show for months to date.

This negative news cycle began earlier this month when Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez unveiled her Green New Deal proposal, with confusion about what was actually intended. Wildly ambitious in scope, seeking to shift entirely to zero-emission energy within a decade and provide good-paying jobs to all, it was confusing in part because of the publication of an early draft of a FAQ that didn't represent what was actually in the proposal. This fueled opponents' attacks on the program and left lawmakers and the media trying to figure out what had actually been proposed.

In the wake of the botched Green New Deal proposal was California's new governor, Gavin Newsom, announcing that the state no longer intends to complete high-

speed rail between Los Angeles and San Francisco. The project had become too costly to justify. Worse yet, only a hard-to-justify-in-a-vacuum stretch of rail in the Central Valley will be completed, at considerable cost. This was exactly the kind of project that the Green New Deal advocates, and if deep blue, wealthy California can't make it happen, it's hard to imagine making the economics and the politics of similar projects work across the country.

Opponents of New York's deal with Amazon are surely cheering Thursday's news, but they're on shaky ground politically, given that the arrival of Amazon has consistently polled well with voters. Support for the Amazon deal has been highest among black and Latino voters, with white voters considerably more mixed, largely over concerns about overcrowding infrastructure and aggravating a housing crisis. It's not a stretch to argue that the political divide on the Amazon deal mirrors that of New York's Democratic gubernatorial primary last year, with Gov. Andrew Cuomo's voters supporting the deal and challenger Cynthia Nixon's voters more divided on it.

All these news stories cast a shadow over the Democratic presidential primary, where most major declared candidates to date have failed to embrace policy proposals like Medicare for All and the Green New Deal offered up by progressives. It's

debatable whether this will end up being a winning strategy.

Former Vice President Joe Biden, considered a moderate rather than a progressive in today's Democratic Party, continues to lead all early polling. While skeptics think that's based on name recognition more than anything else, at a similar early stage of the 2016 Republican presidential primaries Joe Bush never polled higher than the teens. While it remains to be seen whether Biden's strong polling will hold up if he enters the race, Democratic voters are saying for now that they're open to the candidacy of an older moderate white man, and aren't necessarily looking for a strong progressive.

It's possible that one day the Democratic Party will be the party of people like Ocasio-Cortez. But a little historical perspective may be in order. Newt Gingrich was first elected to Congress in 1978 and didn't become speaker of the House until 16 years later. It was a similar story for Paul Ryan, who was first elected to Congress in 1998. Political revolutions take time, and even if progressives are convinced they'll win in the end, in 2019 they're overplaying their hand.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Conor Sen is a portfolio manager for New River Investments in Atlanta and has been a contributor to the Atlantic and Business Insider.

## OPINION

## Americans know Trump economy is thriving

By ANDY PUZZER

Special to The Washington Post

Anyone listening to President Donald Trump and Democrats' presidential hopefuls hears an almost Dickensian tale of two very different Americas. The president takes "the best of times" view and spoke during his State of the Union address about "an unprecedented economic boom" in which "everybody is thriving like never before." Democrats' presidential hopefuls take "the worst of times" view and speak of an America that works only for the rich, while working-class paychecks fail even to keep up with the cost of living and people are struggling to get by.

Is either side right? The American public, according to a new survey by Annuity-sunny view. A Gallup poll released Feb. 11, under the headline "Americans' Confidence in Their Finances Keeps Growing," found that more than two-thirds — 69 percent — of Americans expect to be better off in the coming year. That's "only two percentage points below the all-time high of 71% recorded 20 years ago."

Of these surveyed, 50 percent said they

were "better off today than they were a year ago." That response is "a post-recession milestone — the first time since 2007 that at least half of the public has said they are financially better off than a year ago."

Those saying they are worse off than a year ago fell to 26 percent, "the lowest level since October 2000."

The public's rising confidence isn't misplaced. The U.S. economy might not be in unprecedented good shape, but it is certainly thriving. Economic growth during the first full six quarters of the Trump administration has averaged 3 percent, double the nearly 1.5 percent average for President Barack Obama's last six full quarters, according to the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis. For 2018, the first full calendar year following the Republican tax cuts and the president's regulatory restrictions, it looks like gross domestic product will grow at a 3 percent or better pace for the first time since 2005.

The benefits of that growth appear widespread. More Americans are working than ever before, and the unemployment rate has been at or below 4 percent for 18 straight months, the longest such streak in nearly 50 years. During that stretch, the unemploy-

ment rates for blacks, Hispanics, Asian-Americans, people with only a high school education, women, teenagers (ages 16-19), veterans and disabled Americans have all either hit or approached historic lows.

Wages compared to the cost for the best employees, wages rose last year at the fastest pace in a decade. It appears this competition for employees will intensify. At the end of 2018, a record 7.3 million job openings were available, with 6.3 million people unemployed (meaning they had looked for but not found a job in the past 30 days). It was the 10th month in a row with more job openings than people unemployed. The largest gains for December were in the construction sector. For the first time in decades, blue-collar workers are harder to find than white-collar workers.

To consider the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination see a different America. When announcing her candidacy this month, Sen. Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts, described a country where "tens of millions of people are struggling just to get by." She berated "a rigged system that props up the rich and punishes the poor and kicks dirt on the sick." Sen. Kamala Harris, of California, kicked off her can-

didacy on Jan. 28 by bemoaning a U.S. in which the "economy today is not working for working people." Similar laments can be heard from other candidates.

Some of the contest's political. Following the 2016 presidential election, Republicans and Democrats significantly altered their perceptions of how they were doing financially. Nonetheless, Gallup found that "among some of the key groups that generally vote Democratic, a plurality or majority say they are better off," including people under 30, women and liberals. This group also includes people with annual household incomes under \$40,000, an impressive 45 percent of whom say they are better off, compared with 35 percent who say they are worse off.

It's a heavy lift to convince people they are worse off when more of them are working, earning higher wages and taking home more of what they earn because of tax cuts.

Is it the best or the worst of times? It's still early, but these economic times are certainly the best that Americans have experienced in many years. And, not surprisingly, they know it.

Former chief executive of CKE Restaurants Andy Puzzer is the author of "The Capitalist Comeback."

## Task force backs merger of base store systems

By TOM PHILPOTT

Special to Stars and Stripes

The Defense Commissary Agency and the military's three separate exchange services should be consolidated into a single resale enterprise for the purpose of streamlining above-store and back-of-store operations, says a business plan report the Defense Department is expected to endorse and send to Congress next month.

The single governance structure envisioned for military resale is laid out in a business case analysis developed over the last half of 2018 by a task force of retail executives headed by retired Army Maj. Gen. Keith Thurgood.

The task force was heavily supported by Boston Consulting Group, whose reform recommendations adopted for commissaries in 2016 have so far failed to reverse a steady and worrisome decline in sales at on-base grocery stores.

Thurgood served as chief executive officer of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service from 2007 to 2010 and held executive positions at the U.S. Office of Retail Industries. He would become interim director and CEO of the consolidated resale system if the task force recommendations advance.

Then-Deputy Defense Secretary Pat Shanahan ordered the task force created in May to study the U.S. Office of Retail Industries' support consolidating military resale systems. It therefore surprised no one when the report concluded consolidation would produce attractive savings. The estimate is \$700 million to \$1.3 billion over the first five years, less than \$500 million in implementation costs, but then \$400 million to \$700 million a year in recurring savings after full transformation.

Every exchange service reacted to the task force findings with frank critiques, attacking how it used their staffs and data, and warning of deepening risks to the shopping benefit if the proprietary industry "benchmarks" of Boston Consulting Group, used to estimate merger efficiencies, turn out to be wrong.

Still, the Army and Air Force concurred with the task force findings. The Navy initially did not, with Undersecretary Thomas Modly, in a Dec. 6 memo, describing

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the results as "less than convincing." Five weeks later, however, Modly switched the Navy position to "concur" but continued to insist the task force had "overstated" many "estimated efficiencies," adding four pages of comments and concerns.

In a recent interview, Thurgood and Lisa Hershman, acting chief management officer of the Department of Defense, discussed the task force findings, the criticisms they have sparked, challenges facing the shopping benefit and new authorities Congress would have to provide if full consolidation is to occur.

"This is about enhancing this benefit," said Thurgood. "Now, can we do that while taking costs out of the system? Yes, we can. But that's not the endgame. The endgame is creating a new business model that really changes the future trajectory" of military resale, which has lost ground to commercial competitors.

Task force guiding principles included maintaining exchange profits so they continue to produce "dividends" to fund on-base Morale, Welfare and Recreational activities, and protecting average commissary shopper savings of 2.3 percent. "This means you have to do things fundamentally different than we are doing today," Thurgood said. "As you know, revenue is down across the board [for] the resale entities." Falling commissary sales "is particularly acute for a variety of reasons: changing demographics; generational buying patterns; the market is tough anywhere in the food world. It's a very small margin game."

Commissaries and exchanges would stay separate stores on base, Thurgood said. Consolidation would focus on a new central governance structure and squeezing efficiencies and achieving synergies by merging back office and "above store" functions that customers don't see, he said.

"This would not be about divesting or closing," Thurgood added.

The task force plan targets portions of current resale operations for modernization and others for unification, Hershman added. But there also would be "no-touch

zones," to include AAFES, Navy Exchange and Marine Corps Exchange storefronts, branding, labeling and their operational responsiveness to needs and directions of their service secretaries.

"At the very minimum," said Hershman, "we want to maintain, and if possible, improve that [shopping] experience."

Decline in commissary sales has been steady for almost four years. Critics maintain it persists despite recent reforms recommended by Boston Consulting, including introduction of lower-priced private label products, adoption of variable pricing based on store locale, and the intentional reduction in number of brand items sold as a way to negotiate better prices from manufacturers.

Representatives of brokers and manufacturers doing business with exchanges contend that most of the efficiencies identified by the task force are linked to price negotiation techniques that have failed to reverse sliding commissary sales or to reduce significantly reliance on tax dollars to maintain grocery discounts.

Exchange systems criticized the task force for using non-comparable industry benchmarks from Boston Consulting Group to calculate efficiencies, one contending forecasts of savings are six to nine times higher than are likely to be realized.

Thurgood disagreed. He said benchmarks "are not aggressive" but "right in the middle" and "industry standard" and they are proprietary because when you hire a consultant to give you advice and counsel, it's their information. But if you do the math ... these are by no means outside of normal bounds here."

To figure out the risk of overstating efficiencies, Thurgood added, the task force projected cost savings only from consolidating merchandising operations, organizational structures and nondirect spending, ignoring potential savings from data consolidation, the streamlining of the supply chains and other functions. "If you look at some of the studies our own resale folks have done in the past, the numbers are the same. They are not out of range here," Thurgood said. "I reject the idea that it's somehow super aggressive."

The Defense Department has authority under existing law to merge exchange services to whatever degree it desires. To

consolidate exchange systems with commissaries, however, would require that Congress amend current law.

Hershman said she hasn't decided for certain to endorse the task force's call to replace four retail systems with one. She will make that decision soon and advise David Norquist, who is performing the duties of deputy secretary of defense while the former deputy, Shanahan, serves as acting defense secretary.

Last year's defense authorization bill bans any spending on resale consolidation before Oct. 1 this year. It also required the department to deliver a report to Congress on feasibility of a single defense resale system by Jan. 1 this year. The department got that deadline extended, Hershman said, but the report will be delivered soon and will describe, as requested, options and plans for consolidating military retail activities while preserving military shopper discounts.

When asked for recommendations are approved, Hershman said, she isn't worried that risks to the shopping benefit will rise, given the "thoroughness" and "transparency" of work done to date and her own interactions with exchange and commissary "stakeholders" during final consideration of the task force report.

"I didn't want to have any judgment without all the information, and that would include the data as well as just talking to people" who feel passionately about the changes proposed, Hershman said.

Change is hard, Thurgood said, so he wasn't surprised by critiques delivered by the military resale community. Because the task force's work is far more detailed than previous studies that have urged military resale mergers over last 30 years, the service critiques this time also are more detailed, he said.

"Change fixes the past but transformation is about creating a new future. And that's what this is about," Thurgood said. "And to do that requires us to think differently, to act differently, to get focused on the customer and do the right kinds of things. And that is hard for people, both operationally and behaviorally."

Sent comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120; email milupdate@aol.com; or Twitter: @Military\_Update.



## WORLD



PHOTOS BY JON GAMERRELL/AP

Soldiers guard a theatrical “mobile ballistic missile launcher” during a demonstration at the International Defense Exhibition and Conference in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, on Sunday. The biennial arms show in Abu Dhabi comes as the United Arab Emirates faces increasing criticism for its role in the yearlong war in Yemen.



Above: A soldier travels down a zip line during the demonstration. Right: Soldiers in an armored personnel carrier participate.



## UAE holds arms fair amid war in Yemen

Associated Press

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates — A biennial arms fair has opened in the United Arab Emirates as the country faces increasing scrutiny over its involvement in the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

While the war went unmentioned at the opening ceremony of the International Defense Exhibition and Conference in Abu Dhabi on Sunday, it was clearly present in the theatrical show offered to spectators.

In it, a militia threatens an unknown country with both launch-pad-based and mobile ballistic missiles. Saudi Arabia has faced more than 100 such launches by Yemen's Houthi rebels into the kingdom.

Saudi Arabia and the UAE are the leading members of a coalition that has been at war with the Iran-aligned Houthis since March 2015. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people and caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis.



Above: Young girls perform a traditional Emirati dance at the opening ceremony. Right: Abu Dhabi's crown prince, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, center left, speaks to Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, center right.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Passengers disembark after joke about bomb

**FL** FORT LAUDERDALE — Passengers on an Air Canada plane had to disembark and a terminal was closed at a South Florida airport after a woman made a joke that a piece of luggage might have a bomb.

Authorities said Nathalie Tremblay made the joke Tuesday after a flight attendant asked passengers who was the owner of an unclaimed bag that wouldn't fit into an overhead bin.

The South Florida Sun Sentinel said the flight attendant was alarmed by Tremblay's response and reported it to the flight's captain, and passengers were forced to disembark from the flight at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International.

## Bear goes for ride on a trash truck

**NC** WINDSOR — Drivers were startled to see a hungry bear that got stuck in the back of a garbage truck and took a ride across a stretch of eastern North Carolina.

News outlets reported that a motorist called Bertie County 911 on Wednesday morning about a bear hanging off the truck on U.S. Route 17. Apparently, the snack-seeking bear climbed into the truck during a stop and became trapped after the driver secured the netting that prevents garbage from blowing out.

Sheriff John Holley said a deputy stopped the truck just outside of Windsor. The driver, who hadn't been aware of the stow-away, pulled back the net and the bear ran off.

## Body found on island in 1996 finally identified

**CT** NORWALK — Authorities have released the name of a man whose naked body was found on an island off Connecticut nearly 23 years ago.

Norwalk police said Friday they had identified Landberto Quintero through a search of an updated law enforcement fingerprint database.

Lt. Art Weisberger said Quintero, 24, had no known address. Records from a 1993 arrest for trespassing indicate he was born in Mexico and include the fingerprints used to identify him.

Officials haven't identified any of Quintero's relatives.

Quintero's body was discovered on Shea Island in Long Island Sound on April 18, 1996. The medical examiner's office concluded he had been dead for eight to 10 months but was not able to determine the cause of death.

## Met Museum says it's returning stolen coffin

**NY** NEW YORK — New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art said it's returning a prized artifact to Egypt after learning it was stolen from the country in 2011.

The Met said Friday that the Manhattan District Attorney's office found evidence the muse-

## THE CENSUS

# 49

The age at the time of death of Stanley, right, a popular white southern rhinoceros at the North Carolina Zoo in Asheville, N.C. He died Friday after suffering neurological symptoms and a suspected stroke in recent weeks. A sudden decline in his health last week prompted zookeepers' decision to humanely euthanize him. Originally from South Africa, Stanley had lived at the zoo for the past 30 years.



ANDY BARRON, THE RENO (NEV.) GAZETTE-JOURNAL/AP

## A frosty endeavor

Jinchun Xia, left, and Kevin Liu, 5, of San Francisco, roll a ball of snow for a snowman they made at Wingfield Park in Reno, Nev., on Friday.

um was given a false ownership history for the gilded Coffin of Nedjemankh.

The Met bought the piece from a Paris art dealer in 2017 and displayed it until last week. Nedjemankh was a high-ranking first century B.C. priest.

The Met said it's cooperating with the DA's investigation and revising its acquisitions process.

## Employee charged with selling police guns

**FL** HALLENDALE BEACH — Authorities said a Florida police employee sold department-owned guns and other equipment to a pawn shop.

Broward County jail records show that Yan Kleyman, 33, was arrested Friday and charged with dealing in stolen property. Hallendale Beach Police Chief Sonia Quinones said in a video posted to Facebook that the theft had been discovered during an

internal equipment audit and that Kleyman has been fired. Officials didn't say what his job was.

A complaint affidavit said Kleyman conducted 15 pawnbroker transactions between March 2017 and August 2018. The report said the stolen items included a rifle, a handgun and several laser sights. Kleyman was being held on \$3,500 bond.

## Water-soaked library books in deep-freeze

**IA** ASBURY — Hundreds of water-soaked library books in eastern Iowa are in a deep-freeze while officials figure out how to save the publications.

The Telegraph-Herald reported the books were damaged Feb. 1 when a pipe burst in the Dubuque County Library's branch in Asbury. Officials estimate about 10 percent of the branch's 18,000 books became soaked.

When books get wet, they must

be frozen within hours to prevent the growth of mold.

Library district director Michael Wright said some of the books will be dried with fans, some might go to a specialized freeze dryer and some will be thrown away.

## Woman drives car into police station lobby

**CA** LOS ANGELES — Police are trying to determine why a woman crashed through the lobby of a police station with an infant in her car.

It happened around 4:45 a.m. Feb. 9 at the Los Angeles Police Department's Harbor Division station in San Pedro.

LAPD video shows the woman maneuvering around barriers, crashing through the glass doors and pulling into the lobby. The woman then backs out, nearly knocking over an officer who had to dodge out of the way from her open car door.

The woman and the infant were taken to a hospital as a precaution.

## Boy with rare disorder given his own man cave

**RI** WARWICK — A 10-year-old Rhode Island boy with a rare disorder is getting his very own man cave.

Officials announced Thursday the Impossible Dream is using a \$3,000 donation from state police to build Travis Williams the man cave of his dreams in the garage of his Cranston home.

Travis has a rare congenital disease called Caudal regression syndrome, and had asked the organization for the man cave so he can have a place to recover from future surgeries.

Travis was presented with memorabilia to go inside his man cave, including a signed jersey from New England Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski.

From wire reports



## FACES



AP

The investigation into actor and singer Jussie Smollett's account of being beaten in Chicago took another turn Saturday.

## Police say 'Empire' star assault case has 'shifted'

By GREG McCUNE  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago police said Saturday the investigation into the assault reported by Jussie Smollett has "shifted" due to information received from two brothers questioned in the case, and attorneys for the "Empire" actor blasted reports alleging he played a role in his own attack.

Chicago police had arrested, then released the two Nigerian brothers without charges late Friday and said they were no longer suspects in the attack.

"We can confirm that the information received from the individuals questioned by police earlier in the Empire case has in fact shifted the trajectory of the investigation," Chicago police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said in an emailed statement Saturday. "We've reached out to the Empire cast member's attorney to request a follow-up interview."

Guglielmi did not elaborate on what he meant by a shift in the case.

Smollett's attorneys later Saturday issued a statement saying the actor would continue to cooperate with police, but felt "victimized" by reports that he might have been involved in the attack.

"Nothing is further from the truth and anyone claiming otherwise is lying," the statement from attorneys Todd Pugh and Victor P. Henderson said.

Smollett, who is black and gay, has said he was physically attacked by two masked men shouting racial and anti-gay slurs and "This is MAGA country!" He said they looped a rope around his neck before running away as he was out getting food.

On Wednesday, Chicago police picked up the brothers at O'Hare International Airport as they returned from Nigeria. They described them as "suspects" in the assault, questioned them and searched their apartment.

Then, late Friday evening they released the two men without charges and said they were no longer suspects. They said they had gleaned new information from their interrogation of them.

One of the men is Smollett's personal trainer who he hired to get him physically ready for a music video, the statement from Smollett's attorneys said.

# 'Alita' opens Pandora box

## How manga film is paving way for 'Avatar' sequels

By JEN YAMATO  
Los Angeles Times

The steely gaze of Na'vi warrior Neytiri welcomes visitors at the entrance to some of Hollywood's most fantastical worlds. Towering in the corner of a hangar, an "Aliens" xenomorph menaces, frozen in place. Upstairs sits the Heart of the Ocean, daring passersby to never let go.

You're not in Kansas anymore. You're at Lightstorm Entertainment, the solar-powered, eco-friendly Manhattan Beach, Calif., headquarters of Oscar-winning "Avatar" filmmakers James Cameron and Jon Landau.

Just a skip away on a massive soundstage, visual effects crews piece together top-secret scenes straight out of Pandora for "Avatar 2." Oscar-winning VFX artist Richard Baneham tinkers with a "virtual camera," constructing impossible shots by sending data back and forth to technicians seated at a NASA-like brain trust of computers.

Next door in a custom-built tank filled with 500,000 gallons of water, camera operators in flippers float on pool noodles, ready to shoot an aquatic stunt scene for that aforementioned first of four "Avatar" sequels set to hit theaters in 2020.

It was here a few years ago that director Robert Rodriguez got a crash course in the groundbreaking 3D technology he would need to bring the 26th-century dystopia of Iron City to life in sci-fi epic "Alita: Battle Angel," now playing in wide release and adapted by Cameron and Laeta Kalogridis from Yukito Kishiro's manga series "Gunnm."

Recently, on a quiet weekday ahead of "Alita's" domestic debut, "Avatar" producer Landau led a private tour here through the cutting-edge campus occupying a modest stretch of Manhattan Beach Studios.

Landau, Lightstorm's chief operating officer, walks down hallways lined with "Avatar" crew portraits to the museum that houses precious artifacts from the company's megablockbusters. Inside, the Alien queen faces off against Ellen Ripley's power loader while Sigourney Weaver's face peers out from a lineup of blue Na'vi busts in the form of her "Avatar" character. Dr. Grace Augustine craves the rumormongers the "True Lies" jet, intricately detailed models of the RMS Titanic both pre- and post-iceberg; and the 1912 replica Renault Town Car whose rear



KATIE FALKENBERG, LOS ANGELES TIMES/TNS

"Avatar" and "Alita: Battle Angel" producer Jon Landau poses with a concept model of Alita inside the Lightstorm Entertainment Studios on Feb. 7 in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

window, to this day, bears the steamy hand print that commemorates Rose and Jack's doomed love.

The latest addition to the museum and to the Lightstorm family is also a crucial bridge between the company's past and its future: A life-size model of Alita, the cyborg heroine played under a digital layer of performance-captured VFX by Rosa Salazar, who wakes up with a new mechanical body and no memory of her past life in the futuristic adventure "Alita: Battle Angel."

In many ways, all roads at Lightstorm — where even the decor of the state-of-the-art in-house theater is "Avatar"-inspired — lead back to Pandora, and to the lessons and future of Lightstorm's centerpiece franchise.

"Avatar" was the first film that, in my mind, took motion capture and added the 'e' that was always missing — emotion capture," Landau emphasizes, sitting in his office at Lightstorm. "And that's why we call it performance capture now. Because we want the emotion of somebody, and not just the motion."

Cameron initially co-founded Lightstorm with Lawrence Kasanoff nearly 30 years ago, making it the home for his tentpole films including 1991's "Terminator 2: Judgment Day." When Landau joined the company he and Cameron scored their biggest hits to date, along with matching Academy Awards: Record-smashers "Avatar" (2009,

\$2.8 billion) and "Titanic" (1997, \$2.2 billion) remain the No. 1 and 2 globally top-grossing films of all time, respectively.

Eventually, Cameron turned his focus to the "Avatar" sequels and handed the "Alita" reins, with 600 pages of notes and access to his stable of artists and technicians, to Rodriguez, the genre director with indie roots.

Without Cameron at the helm, the budget had to come down, said Rodriguez, who shot the film in 57 days combining performance capture with live-action filming.

It didn't hurt that the extra wait during the development of "Alita" allowed for the evolution of more sophisticated performance capture technology. The result is eye-popping Weta Digital visual effects that seamlessly unite Salazar's dynamic acting with character design straight out of Kishiro's manga.

Rather than the single-camera standard definition rig used on "Avatar," "Alita" utilized a two-camera, high-def setup. "If Jim had done this back in 2005," said Rodriguez, "it would be a very different movie." That two-camera "Alita" rig is being used for performance capture on the "Avatar" sequels.

"What felt great was not only getting to work with Jim, but that I'm helping contribute to the success of 'Avatar,'" Rodriguez says. "It was great to be a part of that — me inheriting tech from 'Avatar,' and then them inheriting tech from us."

## Katy Perry, Orlando Bloom announce engagement

From wire reports

Pop star Katy Perry is engaged to actor Orlando Bloom, whom she started dating in early 2016.

The "Firework" singer and the "Pirates of the Caribbean" star each shared a selfie to their Instagram pages showing Perry wearing a flower-shaped ring.

"Lifetimes," Bloom captioned the photo, while Perry wrote, "full bloom." Perry's mom shared additional photos from the event to her Facebook page, writing in a since-deleted post, "Look who got engaged on Valentine's Day," according to People.

Bloom, 42, and the "Roar" artist, 34, were first romantically linked in January 2016. They broke up the following year, before rumors emerged in early 2018 that they'd rekindled their romance. Perry confirmed last April that she was "spoken for" relation-



TNS

ship-wise during a red-carpet interview with "Entertainment Tonight."

Perry was married to actor Russell Brand from 2010 to 2012; Bloom was married to supermodel Miranda Kerr from 2010 to 2013.

## Louisiana rapper Mystikal freed on \$3M bond in rape case

Mystikal, a Louisiana rapper who's been in custody for nearly 1½ years on a rape charge, is now free on bond.

KTBS-TV reports that the artist, whose real name is Michael Tyler, was released Wednesday from the Caddo Correctional Center under a \$3 million bond.

Tyler surrendered in August 2017 when he learned there was a warrant out for his arrest. Tyler was accused of a sexual assault at a Shreveport casino in October 2016 and was indicted on charges of first-degree rape and second-degree kidnapping.

Tyler's attorney, Joel Pearce, says Tyler's trial is scheduled for May.

Tyler is best known for his 2000 hit, "Shake it Fast," which peaked at No. 13 on the Billboard Hot 100.



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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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# BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Stocks finish strong as trade talks progress

By DAMIAN J. TROISE  
AND ALEX VEIGA  
Associated Press

The Dow Jones Industrial Average surged more than 400 points Friday as renewed optimism over trade talks between the U.S. and China put investors in a buying mood.

The rally marked a turnaround from a day earlier when disappointing holiday sales data led to a modest sell-off. Friday's gains helped push the benchmark S&P 500 index to its third consecutive weekly gain.

Financial, health care, technology and industrial stocks accounted for much of the broad wave of buying. U.S. markets will be closed Monday in observance of Presidents Day.

Two days of trade talks wrapped up Friday in Beijing. China's government said negotiators will meet in Washington next week for more negotiations aimed at ending the trade war between the world's largest economies.

A March 2 deadline hangs over both sides, although the U.S. is set to impose additional tariffs on



Trader Andrew Silverman works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Feb. 5.

Chinese goods, escalating a trade dispute that has already raised costs for companies and consumers. President Donald Trump has said that there is a possibility he would extend that deadline if the two countries are close to a deal, however.

Wall Street has been encour-

aged by the signals that Chinese and U.S. officials have sent in the latest round of trade talks that began Feb. 11.

That's given investors "hopefulness and maybe optimism surrounding some sort of resolution between the U.S. and China," said Willie Delwiche, investment strat-

egist at Baird. "And maybe (both sides) keep talking and maybe delaying the implementation of the tariffs that are supposed to come into effect" on March 2, Delwiche said, "so, it's evidence of progress."

The S&P 500 index gained 29.87 points, or 1.1 percent, to 2,775.60. The Dow climbed 443.86 points, or 1.7 percent, to 25,883.25.

The Nasdaq composite rose 45.46 points, or 0.6 percent, to 7,472.41. The Russell 2000 index of smaller companies picked up 24.14 points, or 1.6 percent, to 1,569.25. Major European indexes also finished higher, as did gold and crude oil prices.

Markets moved higher for most of last week as investors grew more optimistic that the latest round of talks could move the U.S. and China closer to a resolution of their trade fight.

On Friday, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told Chinese President Xi Jinping that negotiators "made headway" in talks last week in Beijing.

While the trade conflict remains a focus of the market, a resolution may not be enough to ease

a growing sense among investors that the global economy is slowing, setting the stage for weaker corporate earnings growth this year, Delwiche said.

"I'm not one to think that getting this trade deal done is going to all of a sudden clear up a bunch of uncertainty around the economy, particularly the global economy," he said. "We need to see some evidence that the global economy is stabilizing. That's really where you're getting the downward pressure on earnings expectations."

## EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 18)	\$1.1567
Dollar buys (Feb. 18)	€0.8645
British pound (Feb. 18)	\$1.31
Japanese yen (Feb. 18)	¥108.00
South Korean won (Feb. 18)	₩1,099.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.2819
Canada (Dollar)	1.3271
China (Yuan)	6.7728
Denmark (Krone)	6.6219
Egypt (Pound)	17.5411
Euro	\$1.1267/0.8876
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8484
Hungary (Forint)	282.37
Israel (Shekel)	3.2626
Japan (Yen)	110.45
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3040
Norway (Krone)	8.6624
Philippines (Peso)	52.44
Poland (Zloty)	3.84
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7599
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3585
South Korea (Won)	1,127.64
Switzerland (Franc)	1.0063
Thailand (Baht)	31.28
Turkey (Lira)	5.2864
(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom; for nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

## INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federate reserve market rate	4.00
3-month bill	2.37
30-year bond	3.00

# Payless ShoeSource to shutter all remaining US stores

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Payless ShoeSource is shuttering all of its 2,100 remaining stores in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, joining a list of iconic names like Toys R Us and Bon-Ton that have closed down in the last year.

The Topeka, Kan.-based chain said Friday it will hold liquidation sales starting Sunday and wind down its e-commerce operations.

All of the stores will remain open until at least the end of March, and the majority will remain open until May.

The debt-burdened chain filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in April 2017, closing hundreds of stores as part of its reorganization.

At the time, it had more than 4,400 stores in more than 30 countries. It re-emerged from restructuring four months later

with about 3,500 stores and eliminated more than \$435 million in debt.

The company said in an email that the liquidation doesn't affect its franchise operations or its Latin American stores, which remain open for business as usual. It lists 18,000 employees worldwide.

Before this announcement, there have been 2,187 U.S. store closing announcements this year,

with Gymboree and Ascena Retail, the parent of Lane Bryant and other brands, accounting for more than half the total, according to Corelight Research.

This year's total is up 23 percent from the 1,776 announcements a year ago.

Year-to-date, retailers have announced 1,411 store openings, offsetting 65 percent of store closures, the research firm said.

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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## HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING

## Five champs help Stuttgart retain title

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany—The Stuttgart Panthers won their sixth consecutive DODEA Europe Division I wrestling championship Saturday at Clay Kaserne Fitness Center, fighting off yet another challenge from the rival Ramstein Royals to extend their dynasty.

Stuttgart had five European champions from seven finalists to claim the points edge over Ramstein. The Royals, who qualified 28 wrestlers for the European tournament compared to Stuttgart's 22, produced three champions from a set of eight finalists.

Rota, the only Division II team represented in the finals, claimed that division's team title. Sigonella cruised to the Division III title with two champions and three finalists.

While Stuttgart and Ramstein again headlined the proceedings, a large swath of DODEA Europe was well-represented in Saturday's slate of 14 European championship matches. A total of 10 schools from five countries placed wrestlers in the championship round.

**106:** Ramstein senior Andres Hart earned his second straight title at 106 pounds, edging Stuttgart's Monzario Fielding 15-11. DODEA pinned Fielding in last year's championship match, but the two had exchanged wins and losses this winter. Fielding claimed a 9-8 decision when the two met Saturday morning in the final round of preliminary bouts.

Last year's DODEA Europe was the first female to reach a DODEA Europe wrestling final.

**113:** Spangdahlem freshman Carson Hicks embarked on his first DODEA Europe wrestling career confident he'd find immediate success. On Saturday, he did just that.

A relentless Hicks earned a pinfall at four minutes, 32 seconds over Ramstein's Matthew Oreskovich, completing an undefeated debut season with a convincing championship win.

"Constant pressure the whole match," said Hicks, who admitted he was "frustrated" when his pinfall attempts eluded him in the first two rounds but said he was certain he'd notch the pin as he "kept on trying and trying."

That's a fitting microcosm of Hicks' emphatic arrival on the DODEA Europe scene.

"It's exactly what I expected," Hicks said of his first European tournament.

**120:** Wiesbaden's Brandon Wells earned a steady 9-3 defeat of Rota's Philip James Rivera for the Warriors' only title of the day.

"I just wrestled my style, stayed with it and matched his pace," Wells said. "He was fast."

While fans of nearly every school attend the finals, Wells felt a particular motivation to impress as a member of the host Warriors.

"It was a lot of pressure, but it was fun," Wells said. "You've got to thrive under pressure."

Rivera claimed runner-up in the 120-pound bracket for the second year in a row.

**126:** Ramstein's Conner Mackie won his second consecutive championship in a grueling, evenly-matched 3-2 decision over Wiesbaden's Ateyru Allen, using a third-round takedown for the winning margin.

The match was a rare meeting of two reigning European champions. Mackie, then representing Ramstein's crosstown rival Kaiserslautern, won the 120-pound title a year ago, while Allen took first at 113 pounds.

The two champs were part of a brutal bracket that also included Sigonella's Munro Manning, who lost to Allen in last year's 113-pound title match, and Stuttgart contender Carter Hanes, a semifinalist at 120 last year who nearly knocked off Allen in a Saturday morning semifinal.

**132:** Sophomore Benjamin Latimer delivered the first individual championship in Sigonella history with a 9-2 decision over Ramstein's Christian Griffith, a fact he exuberantly announced in his post-match celebration.

"I won!" Latimer screamed into the sky, fists clenched and muscles tensed in celebration. "Sigonella's first champion!"

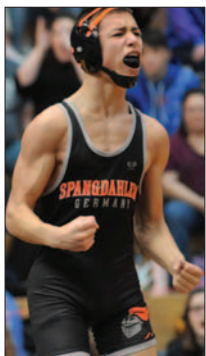
Latimer and Griffith survived the most competitive semifinal round of any of the 14 weight classes. Latimer took an 11-5 decision over Hohenfels' Joshua Robles, while Griffith edged Stuttgart's Ryan Morrow 12-10. Sixteen of Saturday's 28 semifinal matchups were decided by pinfall; five more were determined by a major decision or technical fall.

Appropriately, the final was equally arduous as Griffith pushed Latimer to his limits.

"I worked so hard for it," Latimer said. "He was a tough match."

**138:** Stuttgart senior Benjamin Fielding completed one of the most accomplished careers in DODEA Europe wrestling history with a 16-second pinfall victory over Vilseck's Christian Cimino.

Fielding wraps up his undefeated career with four championships in four weight classes.



Carson Hicks celebrates after defeating Ramstein's Matthew Oreskovich in the 113-pound championship match.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Stuttgart's Benjamin Fielding, left, defeated Vilseck's Christian Cimino in the 138-pound championship match at the DODEA Europe wrestling tournament in Wiesbaden, Germany, Saturday.

None of Fielding's matches lasted past the first round this season, a trend that continued in his overwhelming run at the European tournament. He earned his seven pinfall victories in an average time of 41 seconds.

**145:** Stuttgart's Sean Smith completed a remarkable three-class leap, winning the 145-pound title a year after claiming the title at 126 pounds. Smith beat Ankara's Roberts Swart in a 16-0 technical fall.

Smith said his trip up the scale "just kind of played out." Smith explained that he lifted a lot of weights and bulked up over the summer to get "big for football," and appeared headed for the 138-pound bracket on the mat. But with Fielding occupying that spot, Smith needed to jump up yet one more weight class. On Saturday, he found himself following Fielding at a key juncture in the annual battle against Ramstein.

"Do my things, do the best I could," Smith said of his approach to the final bout. "Just leave it all out on the mat."

Swart was Ankara's only entrant in the European championship meet, but he advanced far

enough to earn the school a third-place finish in the Division III team standings.

**152:** Anthony Llamido put Vilseck in the championship column with a pinfall of Stuttgart's Christian Just at 2-53.

Llamido was one of the tournament's most dominant competitors, recording four pinfalls and a technical fall in his perfect 5-0 preliminary run. Another pin in the semifinal round earlier Saturday set Llamido up for his evening triumph. Llamido's title gave Vilseck a strong third-place finish in the Division I race.

**160:** SHAPE senior Sean Kilrain played to his strengths to secure a long-awaited title for the Spartans. Kilrain took a 22-7 technical fall win over Vilseck's Hyrum Draper.

Whereas many wrestlers prefer to operate on the ground, Kilrain found that his speed and quick shooting ability makes him difficult to handle from a standing base. That strategy earned him a 24-0 regular-season record, and he saw no reason to depart from it this weekend.

"I've learned that I'm pretty dominant from my feet," Kilrain said. "Taking him down, letting him up just to rack up those points."

The Falcons-Spartans clash was one of just two championship matches to not include a wrestler from Ramstein or Stuttgart.

**170:** Sigonella's Amari Pyatt delivered Sigonella's second-ever championship, and its second of the day, with a pin of Ramstein's Owen Peterson at 3:44.

Pyatt entered the tournament a favorite to claim the Jaguars' historic first title, though he was beaten to the spot by teammate Latimer. The Jaguars junior, a recent arrival from Nebraska, pinned every opponent at the European tournament.

Pyatt tied with Spangdahlem's Hicks for the tournament's award of most outstanding wrestler.

**182:** The tension between the Panthers and Royals reached their apex here as the bout was halted in the second round. Stuttgart's Wesley Coglianesone won by default and claimed the title after he was injured by an illegal move

by Ramstein's Gabe Davis.

The match was an example of the upward mobility available to rising DODEA Europe wrestlers.

Both advanced to the championship match after competing in the fifth-place round a year ago, Coglianesone at 152 pounds and Davis at 170.

**195:** Connor Boyer picked up a key win for the Panthers in the last of this year's three Stuttgart-Ramstein finals. The Stuttgart sophomore outlasted Ramstein's Nicholas Mooney for a 7-5 decision.

The back-to-back individual titles, Stuttgart's second such streak of the day, was a key moment in swinging the team crown in Stuttgart's favor for a sixth straight season.

**220:** Ramstein's Theodore Ward used a final-period surge to claim an 8-2 victory over Naples' Augusto de Sousa Matos for the final Royals title of the day.

The two were tied with a point apiece in the third period when Ward slapped a headlock around his opponent and wrenched him into a pinning predicament. De Sousa Matos avoided the pin but spent most of the final minute locked in Ward's powerful grasp, breaking free with insufficient time remaining to put together a rally of his own.

Ward settled into the hold and resisted the urge to push harder for the pin, wary that he might leave himself vulnerable to the counter if he did.

"I was just comfortable staying there," Ward said. "I knew if I would move, try to go for the pin, he would just take me out."

The win was a jump in weight class and performance for Ward, who placed sixth at 195 pounds last year.

**285:** John Carroll capped another Stuttgart championship with a decisive defeat of Sigonella challenger Anthony Perroni, retaining his heavyweight title with the pin just 84 seconds into the match.

Carroll, the 2018 Stars and Stripes wrestling Athlete of the Year, completes his career as a three-time European champion at 285 pounds.

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## MILITARY SPORTS/MLB



MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden coach Luke Rose raises the first-place trophy for the Alpine Classic Hockey Tournament after his team's 3-2 win against Bayern in Saturday's championship at Garmisch, Germany.

## Defense leads Wiesbaden to Alpine Classic Hockey title

By MARTIN EGNASH  
Stars and Stripes

GARMISCH, Germany — The Wiesbaden Vikings defeated the Bayern Rangers 3-2 in a hard-fought championship match Saturday at the Alpine Classic Hockey Tournament.

The championship game came at the end of the 56-match, three-day tournament, where the Vikings routinely used their solid defense to shut down opponents.

"We played very smart on defense and made it hard for the other guys to score," Wiesbaden coach and player Luke Rose said. "Our plan was to keep a solid defense, and chip away at the other teams, and it worked."

Wiesbaden started the tournament slowly but managed to earn the third seed in the playoffs.

The championship game was fast paced, with both teams putting pressure on the goals and making many shots on goal.

"We didn't have as deep of a bench as Bayern, but each of our players gave their all, and really put it all out there," Rose said. "It was a really fast game, and they (Bayern) have a lot of really fast skaters, so it was a hard battle for us."

Alex Moeller scored two of the Vikings' goals. Michael Soucy scored their last goal, sneaking the puck in at the top of the net at the end of the game.

Slick scoring wasn't the only thing helping out Wiesbaden; the Rangers' rough play put many key players into the penalty box throughout the game.

"Sometimes we were our own worst enemies," Bayern coach and player Kyle Gregory said. "We play rough, high-tempo, in-your-face hockey. It's part of our strategy."

The Rangers had three players in the penalty box within the first five minutes of the game, and continued getting players sent to

the box throughout.

"That definitely affected us a lot, and we had a hard time getting things going because of it," Gregory said.

"We had our share of penalties too," Rose said. "But I think the referees called it well. When we're all trying so hard, it can get pretty aggressive out there."

Rose said many of his players are soldiers from the northern part of the United States, where hockey is a way of life.

"We have guys from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and even Canada, which helps," Rose said. "One thing about being in the military is, you get stationed somewhere, and you don't know what access you're going to have to your passions. Not everybody likes hockey, but once you're a hockey player, you're a hockey player forever."

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## Yokota grad wins pro boxing debut

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

A 2018 Yokota High School graduate, learning boxing under the tutelage of a former Yokota airman who fought for the world lightweight title 18 years ago, won his pro boxing debut Sunday.

Dominique "Kenshin" Wallace won a four-round unanimous decision over Takuya Kanda on Sunday at Arena Tachikawa Tachihi in Tokyo's western suburbs.

"He looked very good," said Rick Roberts, 44, a retired Air Force master sergeant who trains

Wallace, a lightweight, at Ring-side Fitness Gym near Yokota. "He did very well. He outboxed him (Kanda), used the jab a lot, he was in control the whole fight."

Wallace was ahead 40-36 on the three judges' scorecards. Near the end of the third round, Wallace had Kanda in trouble but the round ended before he could finish Kanda off.

"The kid (Kanda) was trying for one big knockout punch, but Wallace stayed on the outside using jabs," Roberts said.

Wallace graduated from Yo-

kota High School last June and has fought the last three years in Japan as an amateur, amassing a record of 4-2 with one draw in bouts held at Chiba and Hiratsuka City in Chiba Prefecture and Fussa, the town neighboring Yokota.

Roberts, of New York, fought mostly as a lightweight in Japan. He went 38-7 with two draws, 20 wins by knockout, and still holds the Japan Boxing Commission record with 23 defenses of his lightweight title.

## Braves confident as they start workouts

By DICK SCANLON  
Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Atlanta Braves pitchers and catchers had their first organized workout Saturday, officially ending a relatively quiet winter for the team that won the NL East.

It may have been a little too quiet for some critics, considering the aggressive roster moves made by their division rivals. But All-Star first baseman Freddie Freeman begs to differ.

"Pretty much everyone came back, and we added Josh Donaldson and B-Mac (Brian McCann)," Freeman said. "I feel we have a 90-win team that got better, so I think we're going to be very good this year."

Darren O'Day was the other major winter acquisition, adding a veteran to a bullpen that was tested last season as the Braves won the division by eight games and qualified for the postseason for the first time in five years.

"We've kind of gotten to the point where there's not a lot of holes, maybe one starter, and we'll take the best eight (relievers) with us north," said Brian Snitker, who won the NL Manager of the Year award. "We used 33 pitchers last year. Ten guys made their debuts. We've got a long time to be down here and to sort things out. But you've got to like the depth and what we have."

The first priority will be finding a fifth starter behind Mike Foltynewicz, Julio Teheran, Sean Newcomb and Kevin Gausman.

Mike Soroka, a 21-year-old right-hander who went 2-1 in five

**'I feel we have a 90-win team that got better...'**

Freddie Freeman

Atlanta Braves first baseman

starts before shoulder pain ended his rookie season in June, is one of the leading candidates to fill the No. 5 spot.

"It's the moment I've been thinking about for months now, I guess since we made the decision to shut it down last year," said Soroka, who will not be limited this spring. "I'm coming in ready to compete for a spot and make the team better. I know it's kind of a marathon, not a 100-meter race."

All of the starters are 28 or younger.

"Whoever has the ball that day is the ace. I truly believe everybody on this team feels that way," said Gausman, who went 5-3 in 10 starts after being traded from Baltimore.

O'Day joins a bullpen that includes seven pitchers who appeared in at least 35 games for the Braves last year, plus veteran left-hander Jonny Venters, who pitched in 28 games after being acquired in late July.

"We don't need to look anywhere else to fill the eight bullpen spots," Snitker said. "You start with eight healthy guys to take north and try to put your best foot forward, but things happen and you're going to need a bunch of 'em."

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## MLB



JULIO CORTES/AP

Tim Tebow prepares to bat during the Eastern League All-Star game in Trenton, N.J. last July. After making big strides last year, former quarterback Tebow arrives at Mets camp 'all in' on baseball.

## Time: Tebow continues to improve

### FROM BACK PAGE

awesome? Of course it would. It could be such an amazing thing and it would be so enjoyable, but at the same time, regardless of what happens, I know that I'll enjoy it every day and I think that's the biggest thing for me."

In his second full season of minor league baseball, Tebow batted a respectable .273 with six home runs, 14 doubles and 36 RBIs in 84 games for Double-A Binghamton last year. The left fielder hit .301 in June and .340 in 15 games during July. He even doubled in the Eastern League All-Star Game on July 11.

Eight days later, however, he broke a bone in his right hand while taking a swing. Surgery squashed any hope of a fast promotion to the majors.

"He did a tremendous job last year," Mets manager Mickey Callaway said. "You have to give him credit for the strides he made."

They were evident Saturday during batting practice in a group that included top prospect Peter Alonso, a brawny slugger and fellow former Gator.

"Means he's pretty awesome," said Tebow, referring to the school connection he shares with Alonso.

Tebow's thick arms and muscular frame helped him launch several balls over the fence on a back field. He's been working with personal hitting coach Jay Gibbons, an ex-major leaguer who traveled with Tebow throughout the offseason while he worked his other job as a college football television analyst.

Tebow said he took batting practice on countless college ballfields all over the country.

"It's hard contact. I think I need to have a talk with him about his conditioning. He's probably not strong enough," Callaway cracked. "So yeah, it's raw power, it's real, and the bat moves through the zone pretty swiftly."

"This kid has confidence, because he works. And I definitely see a baseball player out of Tim Tebow. Not just because he's in a uniform, but because he wants it so bad," the manager added.

At the souvenir stand, No. 15 Tebow T-shirts were on sale along with those of several other players.

Tebow's shirt was gray, while the big leaguers were blue.

"We're just going to get him out there as much as possible," Callaway said. "We want to get him out there and see major league pitching. And I know he's going to continue to improve because that's who he is."

Regardless of whether he ever makes it to the majors, Tebow has come a long way in a short time on the diamond after spending 2010-12 in the NFL with the Denver Broncos and New York Jets. Remember, it was just a few years ago that he picked up baseball again for the first time since high school.

A celebrity also popular for his charity work and outspoken faith, Tebow was laughed at and criticized when he embarked on his new career. Last spring, limited to at-bats as the DH because of an ankle he said was broken, Tebow went 1-for-18 in seven games with the Mets before returning to minor league camp. He said the pain caused bad mechanics.

"It's kind of hard to put into words how much more comfortable I feel, to be honest with you. Just in the little things. Shoot, in knowing what I'm going to grab to bring out there with me for practice, you know?" Tebow said. "Just playing catch, going through the motions, balls off the bat, off the wall, all of those things."

And while some players bemoan the monotony of spring training, Tebow enjoys the workouts under the sun and inside the cage, always trying to improve.

"I love the grind of it. I love the challenge," he said.

"Even like for football with training camp, I loved it. I think I was kind of weird that way, but I embraced it. I kind of think I'm the same way with baseball." So even with revered ex-Florida coach Steve Spurrier pitching him a spot in the new Alliance of American Football, Tebow wasn't interested.

"It wasn't very hard — and they've called a lot. And Coach Spurrier keeps calling — and I love Coach Spurrier," Tebow said. "I'm all in on baseball. No way could I stop and not give this the chance after everything that I've worked for."

# Tebow says he advised Murray to follow heart

By MIKE FITZPATRICK  
Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla. — Before picking football over baseball, Kyler Murray got some advice from another famous two-sport star.

One Heisman Trophy winner to another.

Tim Tebow says he told Murray to follow his heart when deciding between the Oakland Athletics and pursuing an NFL career. Murray, who won the Heisman last year in his lone season as Oklahoma's starting quarterback, announced Monday he was fully committing to the gridiron despite being selected ninth overall in the 2018 amateur baseball draft.

After arriving Saturday at the New York Mets' spring training camp, Tebow said he interviewed Murray a few months ago in his job as a college football television analyst and the two have gotten to know each other.

Tebow, a former NFL quarterback, won the 2007 Heisman Trophy at Florida.

"Kyler, I think he's a really good young man, and I think this was a really tough decision for him," Tebow said. "He loves two sports and I can really relate to that. And he went with something that he's been really good at lately and dominating in. When we talked about it, and we did talk about that, I just gave him the advice to follow your heart. Whatever you're passionate about."

Tebow, now an outfielder in the Mets' farm system, has made impressive strides as a baseball player since his NFL career with the Denver Broncos and New York Jets from 2010-12 ended. To the surprise of many, he became an All-Star at Double-A last season and is ticketed for Triple-A Syracuse in April to begin his third full season of professional

**'When we talked about it, and we did talk about that, I just gave him the advice to follow your heart. Whatever you're passionate about.'**

**Tim Tebow**  
former NFL QB and current minor league baseball player

baseball.

After the baseball draft last year, Murray agreed to a minor league contract with Oakland for a \$4.66 million signing bonus.

The deal called for him to receive \$1.5 million after approval last summer by Major League Baseball and \$3.16 million on March 1. He must return six-sevenths of the money he received, or \$1,285,714.

"You know what? Don't do it for your agents, or your friends and sometimes necessarily even your family," Tebow recalled telling Murray. "Do it for what's on your heart, and don't let other people define you. You're going to have all these coaches that you look up to and everybody else that's going to tell you what they think, but what's most important is following your heart and your passion. And so, I don't know, hopefully he did that."

Murray hopes to be a high pick in the NFL draft, which begins April 25, and he could be. He is not a prototypical NFL quarterback, perhaps generously listed at 5-foot-10 and 195 pounds, but his combination of speed, passing skills and scrambling ability make him an intriguing prospect.

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# NHL

## Roundup

# Blues are red-hot

## St. Louis beats Colorado for 9th straight win

Associated Press

DENVER — Jake Allen made 32 saves, Vladimir Tarasenko and Zach Sanford scored 57 seconds apart in the third period and the St. Louis Blues beat the Colorado Avalanche 3-0 on Saturday for their ninth straight victory.

The winning streak is St. Louis' longest since also winning nine in a row from Oct. 15-Nov. 5, 2002.

Allen has two shutouts this season and 18 overall. St. Louis hasn't allowed a goal in 127 minutes, 14 seconds.

The Blues outshot Colorado 25-19 through the first two periods, but couldn't get one past Semyon Varlamov until Tarasenko broke through with his 25th goal at 4:01 of the third.

After Colorado nearly scored at the other end, Sanford scored on an ensuing odd-man rush, tipping Oskar Sundqvist's pass past Varlamov at 4:58 for his seventh of the season. Tarasenko also assisted on the goal.

Jaden Schwartz added an empty-net goal.

**Lightning 3, Canadiens 0:** Nikita Kucherov had a goal and an assist in the third period and host Tampa Bay beat Montreal for its fifth consecutive victory.

Andrei Vasilevsky made 20 saves in his second consecutive shutout and franchise-record 18th for his career. Vasilevsky tied Las Vegas' Marc-Andre Fleury for the NHL lead with six shutouts.

Yanni Gourde also scored, and Steven Stamkos had two assists, helping the Lightning improve to 7-0 in the last nine games. Tyler Johnson scored his 21st goal of the season.

**Flyers 6, Red Wings 5 (OT):** Travis Konecny scored his second goal of the game 1:27 into overtime and host Philadelphia beat Detroit after blowing a four-goal lead in the third period.

Detroit remained winless in Philadelphia for more than 20 years. The Flyers are 15-0-1 at home against the Red Wings since getting swept in the 1997 Stanley Cup Final. They will meet again Sunday night in Detroit.

**Flames 5, Penguins 4:** Michael Frolik led the first of four second-period goals for Calgary and the Flames won at Pittsburgh to end a four-game skid.

Frolik, Austin Czarnik, Travis Hamonic and Sam Bennett scored during a mid-game 17-minute span. Andrew Mangiapane also scored for Calgary, and Mike Smith made 34 saves.

Evgeni Malkin had two third-period, power-play goals for the Penguins, Sidney Crosby had a goal and two assists, and Jake Guentzel added a goal.

**Hurricanes 3, Stars 0:** Petr Mrazek stopped 33 shots in his third shutout of the season and 23 saves for the Bruins, who move into a wild-card playoff spot.

Justin Williams and Brock McGinn scored less than four minutes apart in the first period, and Micheal Ferland added a power-play goal in the third. The Hurricanes improved to 16-5-1 in their last 22 games, the most wins and points in the NHL in that span.

**Blue Jackets 5, Blackhawks 2:** Artemi Panarin had two goals and an assist against his former team and Columbus won at Chicago for its fifth win in six games.

Pierre-Luc Dubois added a goal and an assist, Cam Atkinson and Josh Anderson also scored, and Sergei Bobrovsky made 39 saves in his sixth straight start.

**Coyotes 2, Maple Leafs 0:** Darcy Kuemper stopped 21 shots and host Arizona spoiled Auston Matthews' return to his hometown with a victory over Toronto.

Alex Galchenyuk and Josh Archibald scored.

Matthews grew up in Scottsdale.

**Islanders 5, Oilers 2:** Mathew Barzal and Anders Lee scored in the third period and host New York beat Edmonton in the final game of the regular season at Barclays Center.

Ryan Pulock, Valteri Filppula, and Brock Nelson also scored, and Devon Toews had two assists to help the Islanders win for the fifth time in six games and move to 11-5-2 in the last 28. Robin Lehner stopped 34 shots for his 18th victory, moving to 14-3-1 since Dec. 18.

**Senators 4, Jets 3 (OT):** Ryan Dzingel scored at 3:44 of overtime to lift Ottawa to a win at Winnipeg.

Mark Stone, Rodolfo Blaceras and Matt Duchene scored power-play goals, and Stone and Dzingel each had one assist. Anders Nilsson stopped 23 shots to help the Senators improve to 3-7-0 in their last 10.

**Golden Knights 5, Predators 1:** Max Pacioretty scored twice, and Malcolm Subban made 29 saves in his first start since early January and host Las Vegas stopped Nashville.

The Golden Knights snapped a three-game losing streak, and a franchise-record five-game skid at T-Mobile Arena.

**Sharks 3, Canucks 2:** Joe Pavelski, Logan Couture and Jannik Hejro each had a goal and an assist to lead host San Jose past Vancouver.

Pavelski snapped a tie 13:06 into the third period. Meier and Couture assisted on his team-leading 31st goal.

**Bruins 4, Kings 2:** Charlie McAvoy scored with 1:13 remaining and Boston won at Los Angeles for its fifth consecutive victory.

Jake DeBrusk scored for the third consecutive game, and Brad Marchand and Patrice Bergeron added goals. Munka Rask made 23 saves for the Bruins, who are 7-0-3 in their past nine games.

• STARS AND STRIPES •

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP
Tampa Bay	59	44	11	4	92	219	149	92	21.4
Boston	59	34	17	8	76	175	150	90	18.3
Toronto	58	36	21	1	75	206	163	85	20.6
Montreal	58	31	20	7	69	173	168	87	18.3
Buffalo	57	28	22	7	63	167	171	87	17.4
Florida	58	24	24	8	56	173	185	88	17.4
Detroit	58	23	28	5	54	167	196	86	16.7
Ottawa	58	22	31	5	50	179	211	89	17.9

Metropolitan Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP
N.Y. Islanders	58	32	16	6	76	169	138	88	19.2
Washington	58	32	21	7	71	197	184	92	18.7
Columbus	57	33	21	3	69	185	172	87	18.4
San Jose	59	31	22	6	68	170	152	90	18.3
Pittsburgh	58	30	21	7	67	209	179	90	19.0
Philadelphia	58	29	22	7	63	173	185	88	17.4
N.Y. Rangers	57	25	24	8	58	165	188	88	16.7
New Jersey	58	22	28	8	52	169	203	92	16.7

### Western Conference

Central Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP
Winnipeg	59	36	19	4	76	202	171	91	21.4
Nashville	61	34	22	5	73	186	160	90	18.3
St. Louis	57	32	22	3	65	170	152	88	17.4
Dallas	58	32	24	2	63	145	149	88	17.4
Minnesota	58	25	25	8	60	164	182	88	16.7
Colorado	58	23	24	11	57	186	192	92	16.7
Chicago	59	24	26	9	57	192	216	92	16.7

Pacific Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP
Calgary	58	35	16	7	77	212	174	94	21.4
San Jose	59	36	14	4	76	202	171	91	21.4
Vegas	60	32	24	4	68	180	169	90	18.3
Vancouver	58	26	27	5	57	152	182	87	16.7
Edmonton	58	22	27	9	53	163	195	87	16.7
Los Angeles	58	23	29	6	52	141	179	88	16.7

Pacific Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP
Calgary	58	35	16	7	77	212	174	94	21.4
San Jose	59	36	14	4	76	202	171	91	21.4
Vegas	60	32	24	4	68	180	169	90	18.3
Vancouver	58	26	27	5	57	152	182	87	16.7
Edmonton	58	22	27	9	53	163	195	87	16.7
Los Angeles	58	23	29	6	52	141	179	88	16.7

Pacific Division									
Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP
Calgary	58	35	16	7	77	212	174	94	21.4
San Jose	59	36	14	4	76	202	171	91	21.4
Vegas	60	32	24	4	68	180	169	90	18.3
Vancouver	58	26	27	5	57	152	182	87	16.7
Edmonton	58	22	27	9	53	163	195	87	16.7
Los Angeles	58	23	29	6	52	141	179	88	16.7

### Saturday

#### Flyers 6, Red Wings 5 (OT)

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP
Detroit	58	23	28	7	53	167	196	86	16.7
Philadelphia	58	29	22	7	63	173	185	88	17.4
Washington	58	32	21	7	71	197	184	92	18.7
Calgary	58	35	16	7	77	212	174	94	21.4
San Jose	59	36	14	4	76	202	171	91	21.4
Vegas	60	32	24	4	68	180	169	90	18.3
Vancouver	58	26	27	5	57	152	182	87	16.7
Edmonton	58	22	27	9	53	163	195	87	16.7
Los Angeles	58	23	29	6	52	141	179	88	16.7

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP
Detroit	58	23	28	7	53	167	196	86	16.7
Philadelphia	58	29	22	7	63	173	185	88	17.4
Washington	58	32	21	7	71	197	184	92	18.7
Calgary	58	35	16	7	77	212	174	94	21.4
San Jose	59	36	14	4	76	202	171	91	21.4
Vegas	60	32	24	4	68	180	169	90	18.3
Vancouver	58	26	27	5	57	152	182	87	16.7
Edmonton	58	22	27	9	53	163	195	87	16.7
Los Angeles	58	23	29	6	52	141	179	88	16.7

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San Jose	59	36	14	4	76	202	171	91	21.4
Vegas	60	32	24	4	68	180	169	90	18.3
Vancouver	58	26	27	5	57	152	182	87	16.7
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Los Angeles	58	23	29	6	52	141	179	88	16.7



St. Louis right wing Vladimir Tarasenko, front, collects the puck as Colorado left wing Gabriel Landeskog defends Saturday.

### Senators 4, Jets 3 (OT)

Team	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	SV	PP
Ottawa	58	23	28	7	53	167	196	86	16.7
Philadelphia	58	29	22	7	63	173	185	88	17.4
Washington	58	32	21	7	71	197	184	92	18.7
Calgary	58	35	16	7	77	212	174	94	21.4
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Vancouver	58	26	27	5	57	152	182	87	16.7
Edmonton	58	22	27	9	53	163	195	87	16.7
Los Angeles	58	23	29	6	52	141	179	88	16.7

**Sharks 3, Canucks 2**

Vancouver	1	0	1-2
San Jose	1	1	1-3

**First Period**—1, San Jose, Meier 21 (E.Karlsson, Kane), 3:45 (pp). 2, Vancouver, Roussel 7 (Biega), 4:42.

**Second Period**—3, San Jose, Couture 21 (Pavelski, Burns), 11:08.

**Third Period**—4, Vancouver, Boeser 21 (Petterson, Pouliot), 4:31. 5, San Jose, Pavelski 31 (Couture, Meier), 13:06.

**Shots on Goal**—Vancouver 8-19-7-34. San Jose 11-6-9-26.

**Power-play opportunities**—Vancouver

## GOLF/SPORTS BRIEFS/NFL

## Golf roundup

## Woods climbs into contention at Riviera

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tiger Woods had Riviera rocking with cheers that could be heard a half-mile away, three birdies and an eagle on his opening four holes for his hottest start on the PGA Tour in nearly 10 years.

On the other side of the course, and still well ahead of him on the leaderboard, Justin Thomas made a 12-foot eagle putt to take a one-shot lead over Adam Scott, who narrowly missed his eagle attempt from 10 feet.

It was the kind of Saturday drama at the Genesis Open that sets the table for the final round, with one big difference.

The third round was just getting started at rain-delayed Riviera.

"There's so much golf to play," Scott said. "It feels like it's late in the tourney, but it's only halfway."

Thomas got a lot done in the eight holes he played Saturday — six in the morning to complete the second round, two in the twilight to at least leave Riviera with the lead. He nearly holed a 9-iron on No. 5 for a tap-in birdie, and then clipped a flop shot from the putting green and over the bunker to make par on the par-3 sixth on his way to a 6-under 65. Scott played behind him — he got in nine holes — and matched his 65 to join him in the 36-hole lead at 11-under 131.

Both made tough par saves on No. 2 in the third round. Both hit their tee shots on the next hole, wanting to get in as many



RYAN KAMU/AP

**Tiger Woods reads the green before putting on the 12th hole for birdie during the third round of the Genesis Open on Saturday at Riviera Country Club in Los Angeles.**

holes as possible in superb conditions and to keep Sunday even a little bit shorter.

But they ran out of light.

Scott always leaves the flagstick in, but he couldn't see it from 136 yards away. Thomas decided to mark his ball in the right rough. Play stopped across Riviera, as Woods chose to mark his ball well short of the green at the par-5 17th, where he will

return to try to get up-and-down for par.

The third round resumed Sunday at 6:45 a.m., and then the 76 players who made the cut headed right back out in the same groups.

**PGA Tour:** Nelly Korda added to her family's impressive sports pedigree Down Under with a win Sunday at the Women's Australian Open.

Korda led by three strokes after the third round, increased it to four with a tap-in birdie on the 10th and added a 25-foot birdie on the 11th to make it a lead of five.

She had a third consecutive birdie on the 12th to help claim a two-stroke victory at The Grange Golf Club, finishing with a 17-under total of 271. Defending champion Jin Young Ko was second after a 64.

Korda's father Petr was an Australian Open tennis champion, winning the tournament in 1998. Her golfing sister Jessica won the Australian Open seven years ago.

And her tennis-playing brother Sebastian won the Australian Open boys' singles title last year.

Five-time champion Karrie Webb finished with a 73 and was 3-over for the tournament.

**Champions Tour:** Ken Tanigawa had six back-nine birdies in a 5-under 66 for a share of the Chubb Classic lead Saturday with Glen Day and Stephen Ames in Naples, Fla.

Day birdied the final two holes for a 66. Ames, tied for the first-round lead with Sandy Lyle after a then-course record 63, had a 68 to keep a share of the top spot at 11-under 131.

Kevin Sutherland broke the day-old course record with a 62, birdieing six of his first eight holes. He was a stroke back with Bernhard Langer (64), Colin Montgomerie (63), Woody Austin (65), Tom Byrum (65), Dan Olsen (67) and Kent Jones (67).

## Briefly

## Annett gets first series win

Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Michael Annett stretched the Speedweeks streak of first-time winners to three with a victory Saturday in the Xfinity Series season opener at Daytona International Speedway.

Annett won for the first time at NASCAR's national level, a career that spans 345 races in three series. He gave JR Motorsports, owned by Dale Earnhardt Jr., his sister and Rick Hendrick, its fourth in five years at Daytona. "A lot of people have been down on Michael Annett for a while now," Earnhardt said.

He likened Annett's opportunity driving the No. 1 Chevrolet for JRM, a competitive Xfinity Series team, to when the late Dale Earnhardt gave Michael Waltrip a ride in 2001. It was Waltrip's first ride in a car capable of winning and he ended a 462-race losing streak, winning the Daytona 500.

"It reminds me of an Earnhardt giving me a chance years ago to show his potential," Earnhardt Jr. said about Annett's victory.

Annett followed Austin Hill, winner of the Truck Series open-



TERRY RENNA/AP

**Michael Annett celebrates in Victory Lane after winning the Xfinity series race Saturday at Daytona International Speedway.**

er, and Harrison Burton, winner of the ARCA opener, as first-time winners this week. The Daytona 500 is Sunday. Allgaier finished second for a 1-2 Chevrolet finish but didn't have an opportunity to pass Annett for the lead.

## Hirscher leads Austrian slalom sweep at worlds

ARE, Sweden — One of the best runs of Marcel Hirscher's career allowed the Austrian great to coast to a third slalom title at the skiing world championships on Sunday.

Hirscher suggested after the race this could be his last ever worlds — and if that is the case, he has gone out on a high.

He obliterated the field with an almost flawless first run. No other skier was within a second

of him.

Hirscher led an Austrian 1-2-3 finish ahead of Michael Matt and Marco Schwarz.

## NBA, FIBA to start pro league in Africa

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The NBA is bringing a pro league to Africa.

The Basketball Africa League, a new collaboration between the NBA and the sport's global governing body FIBA, was announced Saturday. The initial plan is for the 12-team league to begin play in January, and former President Barack Obama is among those who are expected to have direct involvement with the league's plan to keep growing the game in Africa through the league and other initiatives.

## Brown airs list of issues with Steelers

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Antonio Brown's laundry list of issues with the Pittsburgh Steelers appears to include a problem with quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's leadership style and how head coach Mike Tomlin treated the Pro Bowl wide receiver during the regular-season finale against Cincinnati.

Brown, who has requested a trade, took to Twitter on Saturday to vent in what amounted to his first expanded public comments since a falling out with the organization that has left his future with the club very much in doubt.

Asked by a Twitter user about the root of his conflict with Roethlisberger, Brown responded "No conflict just a matter of respect! Mutual respect? He has owner mentality like he can call out anybody including coaches. Players know but they can't say anything about it otherwise they melt ticket gone. It's a dirty game within a game. #truth."

Roethlisberger does not hesitate to take teammates to task publicly, a right the two-time Super Bowl winner says he has earned. While rarely overtly critical of Brown this season, Roethlisberger on one occasion declined to name Brown specifically when asked about the benefits of having a No. 1 receiver, instead naming just about every

receiver on the roster.

Brown also called out Tomlin for the way he handled Brown during the course of the final week of the regular season. The team sent Brown home two days before the game and ordered him to rest and have his knee examined. Tomlin said afterward Brown did not have the exam and did not communicate with the team until early on the morning of the day of the game when his agent, Drew Rosenhaus, contacted Tomlin and said Brown would be available to play.

Brown arrived at the stadium in time but did not dress after the team made him inactive. He watched the first half from the sideline but was not around after Pittsburgh won 16-13. The victory, however, did not help the Steelers extend their season. They missed the playoffs after finishing 9-7-1.

"After the coach tell the team I quit while nursing some bumps then invite me to watch the show with some guys thinking I quit," Brown tweeted. "I can not stand with that! I'm the bad guy doe Browns miss post season think about it."

Brown is expected to meet with Pittsburgh Steelers president Art Rooney II — who has declined to disparage Brown despite futile attempts to communicate with the nine-year pro in coming days. Any such sit-down appears to offer no chance at reconciling.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

## No. 5 Kentucky knocks off No. 1 Tennessee

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — No. 5 Kentucky got the strong start it sought against No. 1 Tennessee and for a moment was blowing out the Volunteers.

Most important was the Wildcats finished off the Vols on a national stage, just what they needed days after letting one slip away.

PJ Washington scored 23 points, Keldon Johnson added 19 and Kentucky beat Tennessee 86-69 Saturday night to end the Volunteers' school-record, 19-game winning streak.

The Wildcats used a 25-7 surge over a little more than seven minutes for a 62-38 lead, providing a cushion that withstood the Volunteers' 13-0 spurt soon after that cut the advantage in half. Kentucky maintained a double-digit lead to win the highly anticipated matchup of top-five schools.

Kentucky (21-4, 10-2) also avoided a second consecutive SEC loss to stay within reach of co-leader Tennessee (23-2, 11-1), which hadn't lost since Nov. 23 to No. 2 Kansas.

"It shows everybody that we can still play with great teams in this league and also in the country," said Washington, who scored Kentucky's first seven points and finished 9-for-12 from the field for his seventh 20-point effort in the past eight games.

Johnson, meanwhile, made eight of 14 with three three-pointers as the Wildcats shot 55 percent. Tyler Herro had 15 points and 10 rebounds as Kentucky beat Tennessee 39-26 on the glass.

**No. 2 Duke 94, North Carolina State 78:** RJ Barrett had the Blue Devils' first triple-double in 13 years, finishing with 23 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in host Williams' victory.

Zion Williamson scored 32 points on 12-of-16 shooting and Tre Jones added 13 to help the Blue Devils (23-2, 11-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) win their ninth straight.

Barrett became the fourth Blue Devils player with a triple-double as the first since Jalen Williams in January 2006. He completed it in the final minute, hitting Williamson for a layup that put Duke up 90-74.

Markell Johnson had 16 points and 10 assists for the Wolfpack (18-8, 6-7), who had their two-game winning streak snapped.

**No. 22 Hazzard 79, San Diego 67:** Rui Hazzard scored 16 of his 22 points in the second half and had 10 rebounds and the Bulldogs pulled away at San Diego in the second half for their 16th straight victory.

Zach Norvell Jr. added 18 points, Josh Perkins 15 and Brandon Clarke 14 for the Gonzaga (25-2, 12-0 West Coast). The nation's highest scoring team, the Bulldogs had only 30 points in the first half but then scored 31 points in the first 9:59 of the second half to take control.

Gonzaga shot 69 percent (20 of 29) in the second half to finish at 58.2 percent (32 of 55).



Kentucky's Keldon Johnson, who had 19 points, celebrates his team's 86-69 defeat of top-ranked Tennessee on Saturday in Lexington, Ky.

Olin Carter III scored 20 points for the Toreros (16-11, 5-7).

**No. 4 Virginia 60, Notre Dame 54:** Kyle Guy scored 22 points, DeAndre Hunter had 20 with 10 rebounds and the host Cavaliers withstood a late push.

Hunter scored six points during a 9-0 run for Virginia (22-2, 10-2 Atlantic Coast Conference) after the Fighting Irish closed to within 45-44 with 8:12 left.

T.J. Gibbs scored 17 and D.J. Harvey had 10 for Notre Dame (13-12, 3-9).

Notre Dame got within 54-52 in the final minute after the Cavaliers went scoreless for more than four minutes. But Guy made four free throws to seal it.

**No. 6 Michigan 65, No. 24 Maryland 52:** Charles Matthews scored 14 points and Iggy Brazdekis added 13 to lift the host Wolverines over Maryland.

Michigan (23-3, 12-3 Big Ten) rebounded from its loss at Penn State earlier in the week. The Wolverines raced out to a 14-2 advantage and led by as much as 15 in the first half.

Bruno Fernando scored all 12 of his points in the second half for the Terrapins (19-7, 10-5).

**No. 7 Nevada 82, Wyoming 49:** Trey Porter scored 14 points, Jordan Caroline and Caleb Martin added 13 apiece, and the Wolf Pack easily won at Wyoming for their 10th straight win.

Jazz Johnson contributed 12 points and Tre'Shawn Thurman had 11 points and 12 rebounds for Nevada (24-1, 11-1 Mountain West). The Wolf Pack shot 54.4 percent from the field.

Nevada avenged its loss last season at Laramie, when the Cowboys defeated the then-No. 23-ranked Wolf Pack 104-103 in two

overtimes.

Justin James led Wyoming (6-19, 2-10) with 16 points.

**No. 8 North Carolina 95, Wake Forest 57:** Cameron Johnson scored 27 points, and the Tar Heels scored the game's first 18 points en route to their biggest margin of victory in an Atlantic Coast Conference road game.

Freshman Coby White added 10 points, five rebounds and six assists for North Carolina (20-5, 10-2).

Freshman Jaylen Hoard scored 17 points for the Demon Deacons (9-15, 2-10), who suffered their most lopsided loss in three decades at Joel Coliseum.

**No. 12 Purdue 76, Penn State 64:** Carsen Edwards scored 15 of his 21 points in the second half and Matt Haarms added a career-high 18 for the host Boilermakers.

Purdue (18-7, 11-3 Big Ten) reclaimed a share of the conference lead with its ninth win in 10 games.

Lamar Stevens finished with 18 points and Rasir Bolton had 17 for the Nittany Lions (9-16, 2-12), who have lost have 10 of 12.

**No. 14 Kansas 78, West Virginia 53:** Devon Dotson and K.J. Lawson each scored 15 points, and the host Jayhawks beat the depleted Mountaineers.

Dedric Lawson, K.J.'s brother, had 14 points for Kansas (20-6, 9-4 Big 12), which won its third straight as it continues to start four freshmen.

Lamont West and Chase Harter scored 11 points apiece for West Virginia (10-15, 2-10), which struggled without former starters Esa Ahmed and Wesley Harris, who were dismissed from the team earlier in the week for violating athletic department policies.

**No. 15 Texas Tech 86, Baylor 61:** Jarrett Culver scored 18 points and Davide Moretti added 17 as the host Red Raiders cruised past the short-handed and turnover-prone Bears.

Jared Butler scored 16 points and Mario Kegler added 15 for Baylor (16-9, 7-5 Big 12), which was without key backcourt players Makai Mason (foot) and King McClure (knee) for the third consecutive game.

Texas Tech (21-6, 9-4 Big 12) stayed in second place in the conference by using an uncharacteristic hot hand from three-point range to surge into a first-half lead that was never threatened.

**No. 16 Louisville 56, Clemson 55:** Christen Cunningham scored 16 of his 18 points in the second half to rally the host Cardinals, who hung on in the final seconds.

Louisville (18-8, 9-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) led 56-49 with 17 seconds left after a free throw by Steven Enoch but then nearly lost a third straight in disastrous fashion. Marquese Reed hit two three-pointers that cut the deficit to one, but Louisville survived.

Elijah Thomas led the Tigers (15-10, 5-7) with 15 points.

**No. 17 Florida State 69, Georgia Tech 47:** Christ Koumadje had 10 points and 12 rebounds as the visiting Seminoles tied a school record with their seventh straight Atlantic Coast Conference win.

Freshman Devin Vassell came off the bench to score a team-high 11 while playing in his hometown for FSU (20-5, 8-4).

The Yellow Jackets (11-15, 3-10) lost their seventh straight ACC game with another offensive struggle. Jose Alvarado led them

with 17 points.

**No. 19 LSU 83, Georgia 79:** Tremont Waters scored 20 points, JaVonte Smart added 19 and the visiting Tigers won their fourth straight game.

LSU (21-4, 11-1 Southeastern Conference) is off to its best start in league play since the 1981 Final Four team was 11-0. The Tigers never trailed after Smart's three-pointer midway through the second half, but the Bulldogs (10-15, 1-11) stayed close and didn't allow LSU to lead by more than eight the rest of the way.

**No. 23 Iowa State 78, No. 18 Kansas State 64:** Lindell Wigginton hit five three-pointers and scored 23 points, Talen Horton-Tucker buried six threes and had 20, and the visiting Cyclones pulled away late to tighten up the Big 12 title race.

Mariel Shayok added 13 points and 13 rebounds for Iowa State (19-6, 8-4), which pulled within a game of the Wildcats (19-6, 9-3) with six games to go in the conference schedule.

**No. 21 Iowa 71, Rutgers 69:** Joe Wieskamp banked in a three-pointer from the corner with less than a second to play and the Hawkeyes posted a miraculous victory at Rutgers for their fourth straight win.

The Scarlet Knights appeared on the verge of their second upset of a ranked team this season when Gio Baker got a friendly roll on a three-pointer from the top of the key with 3.3 seconds to play to put Rutgers (12-13, 5-10 Big Ten) ahead 69-68.

After Iowa (20-5, 9-5) called a timeout, Connor McCaffrey threw a length of the court pass that the Scarlet Knights' Eugene Omoruyi deflected.

**No. 22 Virginia Tech 70, Pittsburgh 64:** Kerry Blackshear Jr. scored a season-high 29 points, Ahmed Hill added 14 and the visiting Hokies held off the slumping Panthers.

Virginia Tech (20-5, 9-4 Atlantic Coast Conference) has won two straight following a two-game losing streak.

Kavier Johnson led the Panthers (12-14, 2-11) with 18 points.

**Navy 79, Army 68:** John Carter Jr. had a season-high 26 points as the host Midshipmen stopped the Black Knights.

Carter Jr. made nine of 12 shots, including six of seven from deep. He added seven rebounds.

George Kieran had 13 points and eight rebounds for Navy (9-16, 6-8 Patriot League). Evan Wieck added 11 points and 11 rebounds. Hasan Abdullah had 11 points and seven assists for the home team.

**Utah State 76, Air Force 62:** Sam Merrill had 20 points as the visiting Aggies downed the Falcons.

Neemias Queta had 17 points for Utah State (20-6, 10-3 Mountain West Conference).

Lavelle Scottie had 25 points for Air Force (10-15, 5-8). Ryan Swann added 13 points and nine rebounds. Chris Joyce had seven rebounds.



## NBA

## Scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

## Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	33	16	729	—
Boston	37	21	638	5½
Philadelphia	30	29	508	13
Brooklyn	29	30	498	14
New York	11	47	190	21½

## Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	27	30	474	—
Miami	26	30	464	½
Orlando	27	32	456	1
Washington	24	34	414	3½
Atlanta	8	39	328	8½

## Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	43	14	754	—
Indiana	38	20	655	5½
Detroit	30	30	464	16½
Chicago	14	44	241	29½
Cleveland	12	46	207	31½

## Western Conference

## Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	33	24	579	—
San Antonio	33	26	559	1
Dallas	26	31	456	7
New Orleans	26	33	441	8
Memphis	13	36	390	11

## Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	39	18	684	—
Oklahoma City	27	20	575	2
Portland	24	33	596	5
Utah	32	25	561	7
Minnesota	27	30	474	12

## Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	36	16	719	—
L.A. Clippers	32	27	542	10
Sacramento	30	27	526	11
L.A. Lakers	28	29	491	13
Phoenix	11	48	186	31

## Friday's games

Team USA 161, Team World 144

## Saturday's games

No games scheduled

## Sunday's games

2019 NBA All-Star Game

Team LeBron West vs. Team Giannis East at Charlotte, N.C.

## Monday's games

No games scheduled

## Tuesday's games

No games scheduled

## Wednesday's games

No games scheduled

## Thursday's games

Miami at Philadelphia

Phoenix at Cleveland

Portland at Brooklyn

Boston at Milwaukee

Houston at Lakers

Sacramento at Golden State

## Friday, Feb. 22

Chicago at Orlando

New Orleans at Indiana

San Antonio at Toronto

Washington at Charlotte

Detroit at Atlanta

Minnesota at New York

L.A. Clippers at Memphis

Denver at Dallas

Utah at Oklahoma City

## Saturday, Feb. 23

Portland at Philadelphia

Brooklyn at Charlotte

Indiana at Washington

L.A. Lakers at New Orleans

Memphis at Cleveland

Phoenix at Atlanta

Detroit at Miami

Boston at Chicago

Sacramento at Oklahoma City

Houston at Golden State

Minnesota at Milwaukee

Dallas at Utah

## Diallo, Harris, Tatum take titles

## OKC guard dunks over Shaq for All-Star win

By TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Boston's Jayson Tatum got his gamewinner from midcourt. Oklahoma City's Hamidou Diallo went over Shaquille O'Neal to help win his trophy. And Brooklyn's Joe Harris made all the shots at all the right times to deny Golden State's Stephen Curry a storybook ending in his hometown.

Say this for All-Star Saturday Night: It had flair.

Tatum won the skills competition, Diallo put on a show for the league's annual slam dunk title, and in easily the most anticipated part of the night, Harris held off the Warriors' shooting star for the win in the three-point contest.

Harris made 12 straight shots in the final round and went a staggering 15-for-18 on moneyballs — the shots worth the most — to win the three-point title.

He finished with 26 of a possible 34 points in the final round, beating Curry by two. Sacramento's Buddy Hield was third with 19 final-round points.

"Obviously, it's incredible," Harris said. "Steph is the greatest shooter of all time. But, again, shooting off of the rack for a minute is not indicative of being a better shooter than Steph Curry. I don't want anyone to get it twisted at all."

And the runner-up left a winner, too.

Stephen Curry and his brother Seth Curry of the Portland Trail Blazers had a bet where the winner of the three-point contest — they were both entrants — would have to pay for tickets for the family over the rest of their careers.

Seth Curry didn't get out of the first round. He said that even though his brother didn't win, he'd pay up.

"It stands. He got that 27 in Round One and that's impressive," Seth Curry said. "He deserved to win the bet and I have to do what I got to do."

Stephen Curry won the first round with 27 points, making his last 10 shots. Hield was second with 26 points, and Harris finished with 25 to grab the last spot in the finals. And in a weekend where the Curry family — Dell Curry is a former Charlotte star, Steph is a three-time NBA champion, Seth is in the league and mother Sonya beat them all by making an underhand half-court shot Friday — was celebrated, the trophy finish didn't happen.

Stephen Curry went a combined 37-for-50 in the two rounds, the best of anyone in the event. But Harris' timely makes of the moneyballs put him over the top.

The night started with the skills challenge, and Tatum edged Atlanta rookie Trae Young in the final by making a shot from just past the midcourt stripe. Young was ahead of Tatum in the competition where players have to execute some passes, a layup and then a three-pointer. So fearing that Young would make his three before Tatum could even get one off, he let it fly from about 50 feet.

The slam dunk contest field of four — New York's Dennis Smith Jr., Oklahoma City's Hamidou Diallo, Charlotte's Miles Bridges and Atlanta's John Collins — was pared to Diallo and Smith for the final.

Diallo pulled off a dunk that will be talked about for years in



CHUCK BURTON/AP

The Thunder's Hamidou Diallo leaps over former NBA player Shaquille O'Neal during the NBA All-Star Slam Dunk contest on Saturday in Charlotte, N.C. Diallo won the contest.

the first round — dunking over Shaquille O'Neal, hanging on the rim by his elbow, then tearing open his jersey to reveal a "Superman" shirt underneath. And his first dunk of the final round had the top of his head at basically rim level, putting him in control after Smith failed to make a dunk in his debut try of the final.

Smith leapfrogged Miami's Dwyane Wade and took a lob from

Stephen Curry to give himself a chance with his last dunk, getting a perfect score from the judges — and a round of boos from the crowd, many of whom weren't that impressed.

That left Diallo as the night's final participant. Diallo got rapper Quavo out of the crowd, put the ball in his hands, then grabbed it as he went airborne for the slam that sealed the title.

## Silver: League can boost competitive balance

By TIM REYNOLDS

Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Milwaukee has the best record in the NBA. Denver has its coaching staff at the All-Star Game and Sacramento is in position to end the league's longest current playoff drought.

Overseeing a league that has wanted competitive balance, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver likes what he's seeing on these fronts. But he acknowledged during his annual address at All-Star Weekend that there are still ways for the league to have more top-to-bottom competitiveness.

"You can point to teams like Milwaukee, teams like Oklahoma City, what's happening in Denver now and Sacramento as signs that the system is working better than it has historically," Silver said Saturday. "I'd say we still have work to do, though. ... We can still come up with a better system to create more competition."

While Golden State is still widely believed to be the favorite for what would be its fourth title in five years, the Bucks have been a success story all season in the East. Denver was leading the Western Conference two weeks ago, which is why Michael Malone and his staff will coach the All-Star Game on Sunday. And the Kings haven't been to the playoffs

since 2006 and weren't picked by many to be postseason-bound this year.

Those are the examples Silver likes of a balanced system.

"I look at the NFL, which among sports leagues, probably has the best parity and the best system in terms of creating competition than any league I'm familiar with," Silver said. "Yet the New England Patriots have been in the Super Bowl nine out of the last 18 years. And I don't think anyone points to that as a sign that the system isn't necessarily working. What people recognize is you want parity of opportunity."

In some NBA cities, that opportunity is already gone this year.

There are four teams — Chicago, Cleveland, Phoenix and New York — who are on pace to win less than 25 percent of their games this season. The last time the league saw so many teams fail to win more than 20 games in the same full season was 1997-98, when six teams went 20-62 or worse. The NBA has tried to combat tanking by changing the odds of winning the draft lottery in an effort to discourage teams from all-out trying to lose.

Silver remains unsure if that's enough to solve the issue entirely.

"We've seen this in other sports as well," Silver said. "There's a mindset that, if you're

going to be bad, you might as well be really bad. I believe, personally, that's corrosive for those organizations, putting aside my personal view of what the impact it has on the league overall. But, again, we'll see how this plays out."

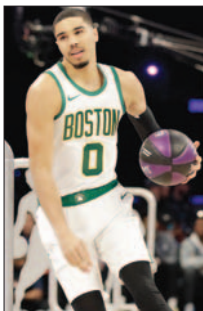
In other topics addressed by Silver:

**Tampering:** Silver said the NBA is "doing a good job enforcing our rules" when it comes to tampering, though stressed that tampering and trade demands — such as the one where it became known that Anthony Davis wants to leave the New Orleans Pelicans — are very different things.

"I recognize that there's very little I'm going to do to ever stop that completely," Silver said.

Silver said he would rather trade demands not be made, or at the very least not become publicly known. But he also said that given the way the current collective bargaining agreement is written, there are "unintended consequences" — such as the Davis situation.

**Dirk and Dwyane:** Silver added Dirk Nowitzki and Dwyane Wade to the All-Star Game to pay tribute to their careers, and that he didn't think about using that option annually going forward. He said he likes having the flexibility to do so, though did not say when or if it will happen again.



CHUCK BURTON/AP

The Celtics' Jayson Tatum won the All-Star skills competition on Saturday in Charlotte, N.C. He beat Atlanta rookie Trae Young in the final round.

## SPORTS

## Streak stopped

No. 5 Kentucky knocks off top-ranked Tennessee » **Page 30**

MLB

Tebow  
time?

Ex-NFL QB arrives  
at spring training  
'all in' on baseball

By Mike Fitzpatrick  
Associated Press

PORT ST. LUCIE, Fla.

**B**y now, Tim Tebow has shown he belongs in professional baseball. He's fully committed to the game and much more comfortable on the field.

Sometimes, though, he still sounds like a football player.

On his first day at spring training with the New York Mets, the former NFL quarterback was reflecting on last year, when he injured his ankle stepping on a sprinkler head at the beginning of camp.

**'I'm all in on baseball. No way could I stop and not give this the chance after everything that I've worked for.'**

**Tim Tebow**  
2007 Heisman Trophy winner

"I didn't run or I didn't play one snap of outfield," Tebow said Saturday, eliciting big laughs while catching his own slip-up.

Nevertheless, the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner is no fish out of shoulder pads anymore. He's not on the 40-man major league roster, but he's in big league camp for the second consecutive year and tick-

eted for Triple-A Syracuse in April.

One step away.

"This will be like, sort of the biggest spring training for me," the 31-year-old Tebow said. "This journey isn't defined by just getting there. I think, shoot, I've already enjoyed it enough to say it's worth it. The whole process. Would that be

**SEE TIME ON PAGE 27**

The Mets' Tim Tebow signs autographs Saturday at spring training in Port St. Lucie, Fla. Tebow will begin the season with Triple-A Syracuse in April.

MIKE FITZPATRICK/AP

Diallo, Harris, Tatum take titles » NBA All-Star weekend, Page 31

